

6 killed in Egyptian train inferno

CAIRO, Egypt (Agencies) — Six persons were killed and 102 others were critically injured early Sunday when a passenger express and a cargo train carrying fuel oil collided near the Nile Delta town of Dammanhour, police sources reported. The sources said the head-on collision resulted in a fire that burned the six to death and caused injuries to the others who were taken to nearby hospitals. They said four carriages of the passenger train caught fire and derailed while a fifth plunged into a canal. A preliminary investigation pointed an accusation finger at a traffic worker who was said to have failed to put each train on the right track, the sources said. "It was as if an earthquake had struck," said Fatih Al Khaki, one of hundreds of passengers who escaped the inferno. "The flames were 30 feet (10 metres) high." A senior railway police officer told Reuters 43 people needed hospital treatment for cuts and burns following the accident. The accident occurred in thick fog just after 7 a.m. about 250 kilometres northwest of Cairo. Three rear tankers of a fuel train from Alexandria derailed approaching a sidling near Tanta and sparks ignited spilled oil, he said. "The driver of an incoming passenger train on its way to Alexandria saw the fire and slammed on the brakes," he added.

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Al Hussein receives senior judges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday Mr. Abdul Karim Maaz, the newly appointed head of the Court of Cassation and Mr. Rif'at Shammout newly appointed head of the Higher Court of Justice.

Both men were sworn in before the King to assume their posts.

The swearing in ceremony was attended by the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's private advisor Amer Khammash as well as Justice Minister Riad Al Shakra.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Sunday the Jordanian round-the-world traveller Walid Mohammad Amareh.

Amareh, who started his eight-year tour in 1986, has just completed the first stage of his trip. He is expected to visit 128 countries.

The King also received at the Royal Court Mr. Mohammad



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives the newly appointed heads of the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice at the Royal Court. The two senior judges were sworn in during the meeting. Also present is Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo).

Saleh Abu Qoura and conferred on him Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order. Abu Qoura had built the Abu Qoura Mosque adjoining the Jordan Times building which was inaugurated by the King last year.

Also on Sunday King Hus-

sein received a cable from Mr. Mirghani Narsi, head of the ruling council in Sudan, during his flight through Jordanian airspace. The cable wished the King continued health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Arafat elected Palestinian president

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was elected President of Palestine Sunday in a move designed to enhance his official status and put some flesh on the bones of the state proclaimed last November.

The appointment, voted unanimously by the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Tunis, amounts to a new mandate for Arafat, who has been under fire for his personal policy initiatives.

The Central Council is a smaller version of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which proclaimed the state and gave the Central Council a mandate to vote on an eventual provisional government.

PLO officials said Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), proposed Arafat in a symbolic reaffirmation of PLO unity.

The DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) are the two main PLO groups in internal opposition to Arafat's Fatah Movement.

They have recently criticised Arafat and his aides for violating the policy guidelines set by the PNC in Algiers but they remain broadly in support of his peace strategy.

The PLO officials said the main reason for promoting Arafat to the presidency was to overcome the protocol problems which arise when he has to appoint Palestinian ambassadors and visit foreign countries as head of state.

The PLO says some 90 countries have recognised the new state, although it has no government, no defined borders and all its territory is under Israeli occupation.

Palestinian embassies with fully accredited ambassadors have already opened in many Arab and Islamic countries.

One PLO official said: "The appointment gives a new dimension to the state. It's one step towards making it real."

The PLO does not, however, plan to set up a full provisional government in the immediate future, mainly because of problems over naming ministers among supporters based inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The organisation wants to be sure that Israel would not jail or deport them if they are named, Arafat has said.

There are also different views within the PLO on whether the time is ripe for a provisional government.

In an afternoon meeting, the Central Committee also elected Farouk Kaddoumi as foreign minister. PLO official Abu Iyad told the French news agency Agence France-Presse. Abu Iyad is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, which runs day-to-day affairs, and is also a top official in Arafat's Fatah, the largest group in the PLO.

Kaddoumi has long served as the equivalent of foreign minister for the PLO.

The Kuwait News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif as saying representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Democratic Front were among those supporting Arafat.

PLO spokesman Riad Al Hasan last week told reporters that a government led by Arafat would exercise its function "until the Palestinian people can freely elect a government at the end of Israeli occupation."

Jordan welcomes appointment

Jordan Sunday welcomed the appointment of Arafat as president of Palestine.

"We welcome any decision they take. It's very good. Information Minister Hani Khasawneh told Reuters. "We treat Arafat as a head of state and will continue to do so."

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said in Cairo: "He (Arafat) can use this position. It puts Arafat in the proper place to talk on behalf of the Palestinians and aborts any attempt by other factions to create a front against him."



A worker at the Dora fuel depot in East Beirut inspects the damage caused by an explosion. Fire brigades continued efforts to contain the burning fuel tanks set ablaze by artillery bombardment.

Hoss calls for resignations

Beirut suffers one of civil war's worst bombardments

BEIRUT (R) — A withering hail of shells, rockets and mortar bombs blasted Beirut Sunday in one of the most ferocious blitzes of Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

The barrage prompted Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Selim Hoss to suggest that he and military leader Major-General Michel Aoun should resign if it would help end the fighting.

"I plead with all those holding guns to have mercy on people and cease fire immediately," Hoss said in a statement broadcast by the state radio.

"Stop, stop this massacre," Black smoke billowed over the capital as Syrian forces and their militia allies traded fire with Aoun's troops, raining thousands of high-explosive projectiles on the city in a few hours.

Hoss said that if he and Aoun formed the two sides to the conflict, then they should act to spare the country because its existence was threatened.

"Lebanon is more precious than any of us. It is more precious than those hungry for power. All posts become worthless for the sake of serving Lebanon," said Hoss, a moderate.

Since being appointed last September by former President Amin Gemayel, Aoun has denounced the rival Syrian-backed

casualties were relatively low compared to the ferocity of the bombardment because most of the city's war-weary residents quickly took refuge in underground shelters built since 1975. "The belt of fire rings the area. Until now no voice can rise above the thud of artillery shells. Syrian fire sows more terror among civilians," said the Falangist-run Voice of Lebanon radio station.

Troops under Aoun retaliated by shelling Syrian positions both in west Beirut and eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

It was the worst conflict in three weeks of battles between the Syrians, their allies and mostly Falangist troops loyal to Aoun, who vowed a week ago to drive Syria's 40,000 soldiers out of Lebanon.

Witnesses said both sides used tank cannons in Sunday's fighting, which brought a prediction by Aoun that Beirut could be flattened one step closer to fulfillment.

The military leader said after the fighting first erupted that he was willing to see the city destroyed in the battle to oust the Syrian troops from Lebanon.

A Falangist-run radio said a Syrian soldier was killed and three were wounded in shelling of west Beirut's airport road.

Shells slammed into Syrian checkpoints and the airport, where radio stations reported a fire raged out of control.

The suburban residences of U.S., French, Belgian and Brazilian ambassadors were also hit. No one was hurt.

Meanwhile the Kuwait News Agency said Sunday, Kuwait's foreign minister, head of an Arab League committee trying to mediate in the Lebanese crisis, has put back a planned trip to Syria by two days.

The agency, quoting Foreign Ministry sources, said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who was to be accompanied by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, would now go to Damascus on Tuesday.

"The postponement was made because of the preoccupation of Syrian leaders in receiving official delegations visiting Damascus in the coming two days," the agency said.

It quoted Sheikh Sabah in the same report as saying that Lebanon should have "priority among Arab issues because of the urgency of the security situation."

Sheikh Sabah said all Lebanese factions wanted the Arab League committee to continue its mediation efforts and it would do so "in spite of some negative factors."

7 hurt in clashes with Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinian protesters in clashes in Khan Yunis and the Bureij Refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

Palestinians also reported four protesters wounded in the West Bank.

Meanwhile Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank summoned Palestinian activists to a meeting Sunday, forcing them to violate a PLO ban on such contacts.

The head of the Israeli occupation authority in the West Bank, Brigadier-General Shaike Erez, met 25 local activists from Tulkarm and Qalqilya for talks on daily problems and political issues, official Israeli sources said.

The head of the Tulkarm Chamber of Commerce told Reuters he and other activists were called the night before to meet the military governor. Some received written summonses. They were not told they would be meeting Erez, he said.

"We had no choice but to go," he said. "We told him this is a political problem and not a question of improving daily life. We said the only spokesman for the

entire Palestinian nation is the PLO."

Qalqilya activist Adnan Al Hindi said he told Erez: "You know as well as we do that we were summoned here and do not meet on an equal footing."

"The purpose of this meeting is to give international public opinion the impression that there is a dialogue between Palestinian personalities and yourselves," he said.

An aide to Shamir said Sunday the Israeli prime minister will present a package of proposals in Washington this week that include a scheme for two-stage elections in the occupied territories and an offer to remove Israeli troops from major Arab cities.

The plan, which Shamir detailed to leaders of the rival Labour Party, is linked to obtaining a truce from the Palestinians in their 15-month uprising against Israeli military occupation. A total of 417 Palestinians have been killed in the violence.

But Shamir's plan falls far short of Palestinian demands. He opposes any talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and is offering only limited autonomy instead of the independent statehood demanded by Palestinians.

Under Shamir's proposal, the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would elect representatives to negotiate an interim settlement for local self-rule, said Shamir spokesman Yossi Ahimeir.

Once a self-government plan is agreed upon, a second round of polling could be held in the disputed lands and Palestinians would select their representatives to a local governing council, Ahimeir said.

During the five-year period of autonomy, he added, Israeli troops would be withdrawn from "major population centres" and redeployed in specified security areas. The exact sites of the pullbacks would be subject to negotiation, the aide said.

In New York, a New York Times poll published Sunday said an overwhelming 82 per cent of Israeli Jews oppose immediate peace negotiations with the PLO.

However, 58 per cent said they would favour talks later if the Palestine Liberation Organisation "officially recognises Israel and ceases terrorist activities," the Times reported.

That was up five points from a year ago when 53 per cent were in favour of such talks.

Tunisians elect Ibn Ali

TUNIS (AP) — Voters Sunday elected 54-year-old Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali as the second president of Tunisia, although final results were not to be announced until Monday.

Ibn Ali, the only candidate, was elected to a five-year term 18 months after seizing power in a palace coup in which he ousted President-For-Life Habib Bourguiba. Ibn Ali had received the endorsement of all recognised political parties.

The president's party, the Constitutional Democratic Rally, was expected to win most — if not all — the seats in the 141-member National Assembly. The party, which went by another name under the Bourguiba regime, has held every parliamentary seat since Tunisia gained independ-

ence from France in 1956.

The 12,000 polling stations around Tunisia opened at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) closed at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT). Official vote counting began two hours later, but was not expected to be concluded before Monday.

Official figures on voter turnout and final results are to be issued Monday afternoon by the Interior Ministry.

An official at the Interior Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 70 per cent of the registered 2.7 million Tunisian voters had cast their vote by the time the polls closed.

There were widespread allegations of irregularities, and in several places opposition candidates withdrew from the race in protest while the voting was going

on. The Interior Ministry denied that there had been any interference with the vote.

Islamic fundamentalists, campaigning as independents because their political organisations have not been officially sanctioned, played a role in the election for the first time in the three decades of Tunisia's independence.

It appeared, however, that they would be unable to break the hold of the ruling party on the National Assembly.

The legislative elections have been seen as a test of the strength of the fundamentalists and the results of the independent candidates will be closely studied. Even if they fail to win any seats, their role is important and may influence the future composition of Ibn Ali's government.

Confusion surrounds Haiti coup attempt

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian officers attempted a coup Sunday against military President General Prosper Avril but there were conflicting reports about its outcome.

Gunfire was heard in the capital at about 4 a.m. (0800 GMT) and early radio reports said Avril had been taken to the headquarters of the Leopards elite military unit, but a senior government source told Reuters at midday that Avril was in control.

"General Avril is in the palace and is in control of the situation," the senior government source said. He said a statement would be made shortly.

However, other sources close to both the military and the government said Avril was deposed in a military-led coup and that a three-man junta was being formed in his place.

The sources told Reuters that the junta, according to the initial unconfirmed reports, would be

headed by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Herard Abraham.

They named Henri Biamby, and Himmler Rebu, commander of the Leopards battalions, as being the likely other members.

No state media reports mentioned the coup attempt. Other local radio broadcasts gave contradictory and fragmentary information.

Earlier, journalists from the independent radio Metropole said state television Information Director Anise Chazenet had told them that Abraham was taking over and that an official announcement was expected shortly.

If this coup attempt is successful, it will be the third coup in Haiti since last June and the fifth government in the impoverished Caribbean nation since dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled amid a popular uprising in February 1986. Avril seized power in a

coup six months ago.

The government source, who asked that he remain anonymous, said that Interior Minister Acedius Saint Louis had been arrested during the shooting but had since been freed.

But in Santo Domingo, Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera told Reuters that the Dominican Republic had decided to allow Avril a temporary visa on humanitarian grounds.

"He is not coming as a political exile and the Dominican Republic is receiving him for humanitarian reasons, to preserve his life," Herrera said.

Sporadic shooting continued in the capital on Sunday, but the city was mainly calm and people were going about their business normally, eyewitnesses said.

Jordan welcomes appointment

Jordan Sunday welcomed the appointment of Arafat as president of Palestine.

"We welcome any decision they take. It's very good. Information Minister Hani Khasawneh told Reuters. "We treat Arafat as a head of state and will continue to do so."

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said in Cairo: "He (Arafat) can use this position. It puts Arafat in the proper place to talk on behalf of the Palestinians and aborts any attempt by other factions to create a front against him."

New faces to dominate Iraqi assembly

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi voters swept dozens of first-time candidates into the 250-member National Assembly in an election that opens the way for President Saddam Hussein to implement political reforms, according to results announced Sunday.

The state-run radio did not give any breakdown of the results, but said that new faces would predominate when the new assembly meets for the first time later this month.

A total of 910 candidates ran for election, including many veterans of the 8-year war with Iran and more than 250 members of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. There were 61 women candidates.

Officials said that turn-out was "relatively high" among the country's estimated 8 million voters, but the government committee overseeing the poll did not

give any figures.

The assembly, elected for a four-year term, is expected to endorse a new constitution and a new law establishing a multi-party system after 20 years of rule by the Baathists.

A referendum must be held to approve the constitution, which will replace an interim charter approved in 1969, one year after the Baathists seized power in a bloodless coup.

Diplomats said political analysts have said the election of a substantial number of non-Baathists to the assembly could influence government policy in the future by enabling the independents to play a bigger role in the decision-making process.

But no timetable has been set for the promised reforms and they are not expected to reduce Hussein's personal authority.

The assembly holds a two-month session twice yearly. It shares power with the Revolutionary Command Council, which must ratify new laws and also has veto powers.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the election committee as saying the poll was "historic... because it represents a campaign to develop democratic life and expand the base of popular representation."

The committee, headed by Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, also reiterated the government programme for "a permanent constitution and expansion of the multi-party system," INA said.

The senior political personality in the election, Sa'adi Meadi Saleh, Baath Party chief in Baghdad, won his seat in a constituency in the capital, the radio said.

Gulf ceasefire violations 'get worse'

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding said Sunday that violations of the seven-month-old Iran-Iraq ceasefire had become more serious and urged restraint.

"Recent violations are not a threat to the ceasefire, which we are determined to maintain," Goulding said in Baghdad. "But they were greater in extent and longer in time with more weapons used, and we are worried."

Goulding arrived Thursday from Tehran to discuss the work of U.N. observers along the 1,180-kilometre border, where Iranian and Iraqi forces are sometimes only metres away from each other.

He told a news conference violations took place mainly in no man's land along the southern front. Eight incidents of people being shot had been reported,

four of them in the last two months.

Goulding said he asked both countries to behave with restraint and cooperate with the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG).

He visited the ceasefire line from both sides on his tour and in Iraq met Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Armed Forces Chief Lieutenant-General Nizar Abdul Karim Al Khazraji.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in February that UNIMOG received 1,960 complaints of violations from both sides up to Jan. 20. Goulding said no evidence was found to back 75 per cent of complaints.

The war cost both sides hundreds of thousands of casualties until a ceasefire in August. Asked about Iranian accusations that Iraq was burning oil

Mubarak begins talks in U.S. today

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back-to-back visits by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir this week will force U.S. leaders to come to grips with problems in the Middle East, but there will be no rush to judgment.

"It would be nice if we could see concrete progress so far as the peace process is concerned," a well-placed U.S. official said Friday. "But we ought not to set markers up out there that may or may not be realised."

Mubarak and Shamir will focus on the Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and in Gaza, but in vastly different ways.

The Egyptian leader, whose country signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, is lobbying for a Middle East peace conference and a seat at the table for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mubarak arrived by helicopter from Andrews Air Force Base about 4:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) at a spot between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial and was met by Secretary of State James Baker and a military honour guard.

He plans a quiet weekend before talks open Monday with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

Shamir will propose to President George Bush and to Baker that elections be held on the West Bank and in Gaza.

The idea, said Avi Pazner, his media adviser, is to designate Palestinian leaders to negotiate with Israel.



Polisario appeals to U.N.

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front Sunday urged the United Nations to step up efforts to promote peace in Western Sahara and sought a second round of direct peace talks with King Hassan of Morocco.

A statement issued by Polisario headquarters in Algiers said King Hassan had shown himself to be a man of "dialogue, political realism, and peace" during a first meeting in Marrakesh in January.

The guerrilla group denied a pact linking Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia and Libya would adversely affect its struggle for independence for the former Spanish colony.

U.N. meetings to decide Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (R) — Greek and Turkish-Cypriot leaders will meet U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York this week to determine the fate of their inconclusive talks on reunifying Cyprus.

Officials on both sides say that seven months of U.N.-sponsored negotiations have failed to make headway towards ending the 14-year-old division of their island.

"Will there be a third stage (of negotiations) and what will it consist of? It is an issue that remains undecided," Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said Thursday at the end of an intensive round of discussions.

Turkish Cypriots declared a breakaway republic in 1983 in northern Cyprus, occupied by Turkish troops in 1974 after an abortive coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The two communities remain divided over what form a united Cyprus should take. Turkish-Cypriots want a loose confederation while Greek-Cypriots seek a strong federal government.

Cypriot President George Vassiliou says he does not want to pursue a meaningless dialogue but still believes progress can be

made by a June 1 target date set by the United Nations for reaching agreement on a federal solution.

"I want to believe that the United Nations and the secretary general agree totally with this line — that there must be progress by June 1," he said in Athens last week.

Officials said Perez de Cuellar would put forward ideas to break the deadlock at separate meetings with Vassiliou and Denktaş April 5, ahead of joint discussions April 6 and 7.

The New York meetings will be important to decide whether the talks continue. If they continue it will be because there is hope," said a Greek-Cypriot political source.

But he said much depended on the persuasive powers of Perez de Cuellar to keep the two sides at the negotiating table.

"He can't force either side to accept a solution it thinks is wrong, but no one would cross him on a procedural issue," the source said.

Denktaş has hinted that if the talks break down he will press for wider acceptance of his Turkish-Cypriot state, now recognised only by Turkey.

Britain to put full weight into Mideast peace moves — Howe

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Britain will put the whole of its weight behind diplomacy aimed at persuading Israel to take part in an international peace conference on the Middle East, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Saturday.

"I don't have in mind any particular initiative but I do have in mind putting the whole of Britain's weight behind the arguments in favour of the peace process — not in any coercive fashion but by simple persuasion," he told reporters in Bahrain.

"We believe that the right way of moving towards a settlement in the Arab-Israeli dispute is by means of negotiations to be attained through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations," he added.

Howe said he would meet Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat

but only when the time was ripe. "I have no doubt we shall move towards meeting in due course but only at the right point in time when it is likely to make a most effective contribution," he said.

Howe said Arafat had taken an important step towards the negotiating table last December by renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist.

"We will continue to... argue the case for a constructive Israeli response to the new opportunities opened up by the Palestinian moves," he said. "It's a matter of mobilising public opinion on the side of peace."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir and his supporters oppose an international peace conference and refuse to talk to the PLO, saying the organisation is still dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state.

Howe met Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince Sheikh Hamed bin Isa Al Khalifa for talks on the Gulf and prospects for peace in the Middle East, including Lebanon.

Earlier in the day he met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani during a brief stopover in Doha. He was due to fly to London early Sunday.

Howe said Saturday Iran's handling of the Salman Rushdie affair was "intolerable" and urged the Tehran leadership to comply with international law and remove the threat to kill the

British writer.

Howe said the European Community's ban on high-level contacts with Iran was a message "that the behaviour of the authorities in Tehran was intolerable."

Britain and its 11 partners in the EC withdrew their ambassadors from Iran after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered Muslims on Feb. 14 to kill Rushdie for insulting Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

Some EC countries have since sent back their diplomats, but Britain's relations with Iran remain severed.

Howe said he hoped Tehran authorities "would not foolishly sustain this threat" against Rushdie.

Howe said he was "putting the whole of Britain's weight... behind persistent and determined diplomacy" in the Middle East.

Sudan to send team for talks with SPLA

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government will send a peace delegation to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa Monday for talks with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), state radio Omdurman said Sunday.

The delegation will tell the rebels that the government formally accepts peace terms negotiated with SPLA leader John Garang last year by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), one of the partners in the new Sudanese coalition, the radio said.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi formed a new government March 26 with the declared aim of seeking a peaceful settlement to the six-year civil war in south Sudan.

The radio said the three-man team, headed by Hamad Bagadi of Mahdi's Umma Party, would also urge Garang to respond positively to Mahdi's statement March 27 saying the government wanted to enter peace talks.

Mahdi formed his new coalition under army pressure following a crisis sparked by parliament's rejection of the DUP-SPLA peace pact.

The National Islamic Front, which wants Islamic law implemented in Sudan, was the main opponent of the pact and stayed out of the new coalition.

The SPLA launched its bush war to end what it regards as the domination of the animist and Christian south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

The team also includes retired Major-General Youssef Ahmad

Youssef of the DUP and Taiser Mohammad Ahmad, of the powerful Trade Union Alliance which is participating in the new government.

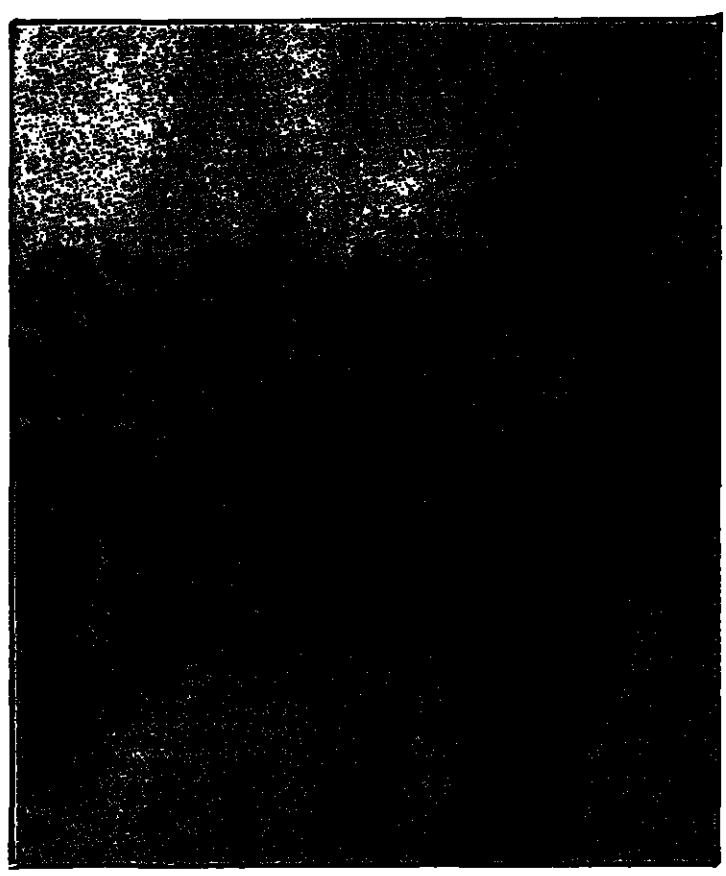
Meanwhile a mammoth U.N. relief effort gathered steam Sunday as another convoy carrying food and supplies headed toward southern Sudan where 2.5 million people face starvation exacerbated by a six-year-old civil war.

"If we don't do this, the disaster will be roughly equal to the disaster of Hiroshima," James A. Grant, the U.N. official coordinating Operation Lifeline Sudan, said Saturday. "Or in recent history, it will be four times larger a disaster than Armenia last fall."

Though no exact count exists, Western relief experts estimate 250,000 to 500,000 or more died last year alone in Sudan's civil war. Some think as many as two million have died since the war began in 1983, mostly civilians driven from their homes who either perished while seeking shelter or left to starve in refugee camps or besieged towns.

An estimated 25,000 people died in the massive earthquake that struck Armenia in December. Some 218,000 people died when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, ending World War II.

A 13-truck convoy rolled out of the capital Saturday with more supplies in the \$132-million relief operation. A five-truck convoy left Friday, and Monday, a 60-truck convoy is scheduled to leave with 1,000 tonnes of food and 10 tonnes of medical sup-



Scenes from a horrific past — a child in southern Sudan stands with an empty bowl beside a Red Cross food line

plies, tarpaulins and pallets.

Before the rainy season begins in early May, Operation Lifeline aims to position at depots more than 100,000 tonnes of food, blankets, tents and medical supplies to keep alive those displaced by famine and civil war.

Both the government and the SPLA have promised not to hinder the relief shipments. Previous efforts were hampered by one

side or the other for political or military reasons.

Grant appeared at a news conference with Mahdi, who said the U.N. would be responsible for ensuring the rebels don't use the food for other purposes.

Grant said, "We depend on the faith of the two sides for the success of this operation and that food is being used for feeding the needy."

Yasser Arafat — Guerrilla leader who became president

TUNIS (R) — Yasser Arafat, named Sunday as the first president of Palestine, is the embodiment of the Palestinian struggle for independence.

Short, bald and stubby, Arafat hardly cuts an heroic figure, but his presence sparks wild fervour from Palestinian audiences. In private, he is persuasive and compelling.

His critics argue that by offering an olive branch to Israel he has betrayed their cause. His followers see him as the best hope of realising a Palestinian state.

Proclaimed president of Palestine by the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Arafat's dream of his promised land looks closer to reality than at any time during the past 40 years.

The Central Council has less than 100 members drawn from the Palestine National Council (PNC), the parliament-in-exile which last Nov. 15 in Algiers

proclaimed a Palestinian state and approved a peace strategy based on a two-state solution.

PLO chairman since 1969, Arafat has kept the Palestinian movement alive through scores of unequal battles against Israeli forces.

The Palestinian uprising, or intifada, which erupted in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in December 1987, took the PLO by surprise but provided the impetus for the PNC's declaration of a Palestinian state.

A bachelor "married to Palestine," Arafat has no interest in luxuries or physical comfort, but loves children. His pleasures include reading history and late-night talks with comrades.

Helped by support from the Arab and Islamic worlds and the Non-Aligned Movement, Arafat won for the PLO a role in the highest councils out of all proportion to its military strength.

Portrayed by Israel as a "terrorist" bent on its destruction and challenged by Palestinians hostile to compromise, Arafat has walked a thin line between diplomacy and guerrilla warfare.

His diplomacy paid off last December with renewed contacts with the United States following his renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

Man in the news

"I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand," he told the U.N. General Assembly in an historic speech in 1974.

Arafat was born in Cairo on Aug. 4, 1929, into a modest trading family. He fought in the Gaza Strip and the Jerusalem sector during the 1948-49 war following the creation of the state of Israel.

As an engineering student at

Cairo University, he was elected as president of the Union of Palestinian Students in 1952, a post he used to gather support and nurture political contacts.

After a brief spell as a soldier with the Egyptian side in the 1956 Suez war, he and the men who later set up the commando group Fatah began to talk of an independent Palestinian resistance as an alternative to reliance on Arab governments.

The first Fatah cell was formed in 1959 in Kuwait, where Arafat — who is also known as Abu al-Amin — and his colleague the late Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) had moved to work and escape restrictions imposed by Egypt.

The first political recognition came in 1963, when Algeria agreed to let Fatah open its first office abroad.

Fatah's initiation of commando operations inside Israel in 1965 was a watershed for the

movement. Arafat had long urged the strategy against opposition from most Fatah members.

In the early 1970's Fatah and the secret Black September group turned to dramatic acts of violence, especially airplane hijacks, to "make the world care," a strategy Arafat conceived in but did not actively support, according to his associates.

Fatah's original programme called for a united Palestine in which Jews and Arabs would rule together. From the mid-1970's Arafat accepted, and lobbied for, the alternative of a smaller state on territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

In 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon, forcing Arafat and his forces out of west Beirut.

The Fatah chief opened a dialogue with His Majesty King Hussein on a proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation to include the occupied West Bank.

Israel did not respond, the United States pressed for direct talks between Jordan and Israel, while PLO radicals backed by Syria began to air long-standing grievances against Arafat.

When the PLO mutiny broke out in eastern Lebanon in May 1983, Arafat slipped back to the northern port of Tripoli to lead his men in a hopeless battle against superior Syrian guns before being evacuated at sea under French protection.

No longer constrained by the need to conciliate PLO hardliners and alarmed by Israel's tightening grip on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arafat began a new diplomatic tack towards peace and his desire for a Palestinian homeland.

Jordan gave up all claim to represent the Palestinians in 1988, allowing Arafat and the PLO to consolidate their claim to be the only legitimate and viable Palestinian leadership.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Four U.S. ships pull out of Gulf

MANAMA (AP) — The United States pulled three minesweepers and a support vessel out of the Gulf Saturday in the latest multiple withdrawal of American warships since the Iran-Iraq ceasefire seven-and-a-half months ago. The tank landing ship USS Peoria sailed through the Strait of Hormuz as escort for the minesweepers fearless, inflexible and illusive, bound for ports on the U.S. east coast. Their departure left the U.S. naval force in the Gulf at 10 ships, including three other minesweepers. With a mine-sweep battle group in the north Arabian Sea, the U.S. fleet was reduced to fewer than 20 ships for the first time since the massive Western naval buildup of mid-1987.

Sudan ends defence treaty with Egypt

KHARTOUM (AP) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said a joint defence agreement with Egypt has effectively ended with the ousting of former President Gaafar Nimeiri four years ago. Mahdi's statement, made late Saturday, appeared to counter comments by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in which he affirmed Thursday that relations with Sudan were unchanged. "In this area, Sudan has clear stances of non-polarisation and good neighbourliness with all surrounding countries," Mahdi said. "It (the joint defence treaty) has ended with the fall of Nimeiri. The agreement is cancelled as far as the Sudanese side is concerned... it does not serve the interests of Sudan anymore." Nimeiri was ousted by a military coup in April 1985. The defence agreement was signed in 1976 by Nimeiri and late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Another integration charter signed in 1982 by Mubarak and Nimeiri was replaced by a milder brotherhood charter in 1987 under the premiership of Mahdi. Mahdi did not indicate whether Egypt had been officially informed of the decision. Egyptian officials in Cairo were unavailable for comment.

'Israel recruited Filipino spies'

ABU DHABI (AP) — The Israeli secret service, Mossad, has recruited 10,000 Filipino spies to work mainly in Arab countries, a Filipino Muslim rebel leader was quoted as saying Sunday. Leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, Nur Misuari, warned of the Israeli espionage in an interview in Cairo with the United Arab Emirates Al Khaleej. "Mossad exploited the general Arab acceptance of the Filipino workforce to recruit them as agents," Misuari said. Misuari's front leads a struggle for independence in the Philippines southern Mindanao region where Muslims are predominant. He said that a few months ago 2,000 blank Philippine passports were discovered with official stamps in the hands of Israeli agents in Manila.

Italians plan 'Intifada' film

ROME (R) — An Italian producer and director said Saturday they are planning to make a film based on the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories. Producer Gianfranco Piccolini and director Francesco Laudadio discussed the project with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cairo this week, they said in a statement. The film, "Intifada" (uprising), is about a Palestinian boy born during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and brought up in refugee camps. It is expected to be completed next year. At least 419 Palestinians and 17 Jews have been killed in the 15-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Pope accepts Syrian's credentials

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Saturday accepted the credentials of the new Syrian ambassador to the Holy See and told him that military intervention will not bring about peace in the Middle East. "The trials your country has known must help it to understand the suffering that strikes the people of the Near East, who for so long have fallen prey to destructive conflicts and killings," the Pope told Ambassador Hunia Hatem. The pontiff expressed "the ardent wish of seeing the advance of peace in the Middle East" and told the diplomat that history teaches that military interventions "do not bring the hoped for solutions." Hatem, in his remarks to the Pope, blamed Israeli policies in the occupied territories for stalling the advance of peace. "Despite our will to reach a just and lasting solution, despite all the efforts we make in that sense, the Israeli occupation continues. The holy land of Palestine, the Golan and southern Lebanon are trampled by the feet of the occupiers and the plunder of the rights of the Palestinian people remains the main pillar of Israeli politics," he said.

WML steps up security after killings

NICOSIA (R) — A Saudi-based Islamic group said Saturday it had sent a cleric to replace the murdered spiritual leader of Muslims in Belgium and had stepped up security for the new Imam. An official at the World Muslim League (WML) told Reuters by telephone that Samir Radi had been sent to Belgium to replace Abdullah Al Ahdal, shot dead in a Brussels mosque on Wednesday with his Tunisian deputy, Salim Bahri. "We are not afraid of this kind of terrorism... we are taking new precautions and guarantees to safeguard the people who work with us," the official said. "I can't tell you the exact details." He said Ahdal, who also headed the Muslim League's office in Brussels, had been offered bodyguards and a gun by Belgian police after receiving death threats linked to the Rushdie affair. "He refused the guards, saying 'God will protect me', but accepted the gun," the official added.

Velayati meets Assad

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad held talks Sunday with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the official Syrian news agency reported. The agency said that Velayati handed the Syrian president a letter from Iranian President Ali Khamenei, but gave no details of its contents. It said the meeting also was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa. Velayati, arrived in Damascus Saturday, the day after he returned to Iran from an official visit to Moscow. He told reporters on arrival that he would discuss with Syrian officials the renewed civil war fighting between factions in Lebanon, and "conspiracies being hatched against the interests of Muslims" there.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:10 Children of the World
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 World News
18:20 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:35 Programme review
21:45 Monday Forum
22:20 Variety Show
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Variety show (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Grand Océan
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Kate and Alice
21:10 Thirty Something
22:00 News in English
22:30 Jewel in the Crown

PRAYER TIMES

03:59 Fajr
05:48 (Sunrise) Duha
11:30 Dhuhur
15:12 'Asr
18:00 Maghrib
19:10 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 774331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772601
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Babylonian Congregation Tel. 822805
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue warm and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 9/25
Aqaba 15/31
Deserts 8/27
Jordan Valley 13/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 6 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Younis Al Hourani 665478
Dr. Akram Samhan 894611
Dr. Arafat Al Ashbah 602507
Dr. Adel Dabdoub 893644
Firas pharmacy 661912
Rushdie pharmacy 778536
Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairowah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 622000/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 663008/91
Public Security Department 661111
Complaints 656000 / 665171
Hotel Complaints 668900
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 12
Directory assistance 12
Overseas Calls 17

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Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773113
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2
Jobal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 838445
Al-Musaber Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/5
Oqoun Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in J.S. per kg.
Almonds 840 / 740
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Bansaa (Mukannar) 300 / 250
Beans 750 / 650
Broad beans 170 / 120
Cabbage 100 / 70
Carrots 200 / 150
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cassambers 330 / 280
Dates 550 / 450
Eggplant 280 / 220
Garlic 300 / 250
Grapes 340 / 300
Lemon 440 / 400
Lettuce (per 008) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 180 / 140
Marrow (small) 320 / 260
Orange (Shammouti) 450 /



Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Assad (second from left) Sunday chairs a seminar commemorating the poet Arar at Yarmouk University.

Irbid celebrates Yarmouk anniversary

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University will Monday organise a ceremony under Royal patronage in commemoration of Yarmouk battle which took place in the northern parts of Jordan near Irbid in 636 A.D., when Islamic forces led by Khalid Ibn Al Walid beat a Byzantine force in the Yarmouk plains.

According to Dr. Khalid Omari, dean of the students affairs department, the anniversary which is being celebrated by the university for the fifth year will be observed with cultural as well as recreational and sports activities involving students and the local community. Omari said that as usual a torch will be carried from the ancient site of the Yarmouk battle, west of the present Shama Kfarat town, to the Yarmouk University campus, a distance of 25 kilometres. He said that the armed forces and the local community colleges and schools will be involved in the different activities.

This year's celebrations will involve participation of students of the Arab Cooperation Council countries: Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, as well as students from Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain, according to Omari. He said that the anniversary is

an expression of national pride in the achievements of the Arab ancestors in their defence of the Arab homeland.

On the eve of the occasion, Yarmouk University Sunday opened poetry festival in honour of the late Jordanian poet Mustafa Wahbi Al Tai, better known, by his literary name, Arar. The festival, organised by the university's Jordanian Studies Centre, entails analytical discussion of Arar poetry as well as a general literary discussion of Jordanian theatre, short story and poetry in the second half of the 20th century.

The festival's opening session was addressed by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad who outlined the life and poetry work of Arar, and aspects of the late poet's character and personality.

Other speakers included the university President Mohammad Hamdan, Iraqi poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayyati and Dr. Ahmad Al Oda from the Studies Centre.

The festival, which will last three days, is being attended by a large group of intellectuals and representatives of a number of ministries and local departments as well as researchers in Arabic literature and poetry from Jordan and other Arab states.

Swedish aid official arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lena Wallenstein, director of international training at the Swedish Agency for Technical and Economic Cooperation (SWEAC), arrived here on an official visit Monday on invitation from the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in order to follow up and find ways for further development between Jordan and SWEAC.

Since 1982 different authorities, mainly the TCC, Jordan Electricity Authority, Jordan Railways, Ministry of Agriculture

and Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, through coordination and supervision of the Ministry of Planning, have sent participants to advanced management training programmes in Sweden. These programmes have been sponsored by SWEAC.

The expected outcome is to facilitate and further strengthen the relations between Jordan and Sweden as well as find practical solutions to promote management training at TCC.

Cypriot trade team here

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A Cypriot economic delegation Sunday arrived here on a four-day visit to discuss scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Cyprus.

The delegation, which groups representatives of the Cypriot Ministry of Trade and Industry and 13 different companies, will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Federation of Jordanian

Chambers of Commerce aimed at increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

The delegation will also attend the opening of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman of a third Cypriot exhibition of national products.

The four-day exhibition which opens Monday displays samples of Cypriot foodstuff, clothing, machinery and other materials.

Media workshop discussed skills

AMMAN (J.T.) — Latest international media planning skills and techniques were discussed at the second media workshop by Intermarkets in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Media planners from Intermarkets Advertising Agency network attended the workshop. This meeting reminded the participants that it is their responsibility to continue to upgrade the media planning function, setting the standards for the Arab advertising industry to follow.

Participants from: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, U.K., Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman attended.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian-Soviet stamps at Alia Art Gallery — 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tschingel Atlas of the Middle East" at the Mu'ta University.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting various aspects of life in China at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Basim Al Sheikh which includes paintings depicting Jordanian costumes through ages and modern views of Amman at Philadelphia Hall.
- ★ A book exhibition displaying British books on the Islamic world at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An art exhibition by Salma Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Hisham Jweinat at the Professional Associations Complex.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh on "Food Security" at Al Akh Club, Wadi Sir — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Spanish film entitled "Demons in the Garden," shown as part of the Spanish Film Week, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Head of Arab Human Rights Organisation:

Human rights, development go hand in hand

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Real political stability and economic growth can only be achieved once human rights are respected, according to Adib Al Jader, head of the Arab Human Rights Organisation (AHRO).

"As long as there is no real respect for human rights there can be no development — economic problems will arise and political stability will never be achieved," Jader, who is in Amman attending a two-day conference on human rights in the Arab World, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

That the beginnings of political stability and development lay in the respect by governments for human rights is a fact accepted by the world at large, Jader said. In the Arab World, "flagrant violations of every aspect of human rights," are still being committed, but there are indications of change — indications which could signal the beginning of the end.

"Improvements (in human rights records among Arab countries) which started very slowly at the beginning, are now picking up," Jader said, adding that both international pressures and efforts of human rights organisations accounted for the change.

Since it was established in December 1983, the Cairo-based AHRO has worked on educating people about their human rights. Part of its job is to explain to the public in the Arab World all international conventions related to human rights in addition to their country's own laws and con-



Adib Al Jader

sistencies. The organisation also attempts to intervene with Arab governments, defending individuals whose rights have been violated. For example, in cases of arrests without lawful reason, or arrests carried out in violation of local laws or international norms, the organisation writes directly to the concerned government in an attempt to put an end to such violations. Provided the concerned government agrees, the organisation sends lawyers to defend individuals whose rights have been violated and in some cases, offers financial assistance to their families.

"Our job is not to carry out political work, and changing regimes is not our task. We are merely a pressure group with a moral weight working through our friends and members, through public opinion, the press and international organisations," Jader said, adding that such pressure was becoming increasingly important in the Arab

World.

The AHRO criteria applied in evaluating human rights records in the Arab World include a government's signing of and adherence to international agreements on human rights, reservations expressed by governments on such agreements, permission granted to human rights organisations to operate in the country in addition to the existence or absence of what Jader called "pluralism in opinion."

The AHRO deals with all sorts of human rights violations in the Arab World — political, economic and cultural — and in Jader's own admission, the organisation faces considerable obstacles.

"We certainly have difficulties with most, if not all, governments, but the situation varies from one country to another," Jader said, adding that the AHRO has official branches in Egypt, Sudan and Lebanon and in countries where it has no official status, it is represented by other human rights organisations. In some countries still, the organisation does not have any contacts at all.

According to Jader, AHRO is negotiating with Jordanian officials the possibility of giving the organisation official status in the country. At present, he said, AHRO has 200 "active members" in Jordan.

Jader said he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the human rights situation in the near future. "If we want to develop and have modern societies, we have to pass this stage and in 10 years we have to have achieved a large step," he concluded.

25 cases of AIDS in Jordan — official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The official number of AIDS cases in Jordan now stands at 25 up from 22 in February 1989 with the death toll this year put at three up from two in 1988, according to a Ministry of Health official quoted by the local press.

Most of the cases of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) were caused by blood transfusion that took place abroad, the official said.

Director of Health Ministry Communicable Disease Department Hani Shammout was quoted as saying that the ministry was expecting AIDS cases in Jordan this year to reach 35.

"Dr. Shammout said that two of the present AIDS carriers are likely to die during 1989, but he added that the problem is now under control since the ministry imports no blood and is going ahead with an anti-AIDS campaign through a national committee formed last year. The committee groups representatives of Ministries of Health, Education, Interior, Higher Education and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the Public Security Department, the Jordanian Bar Association, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the General Federation of Jordanian Women."

Shammout revealed that between seven and eight meningitis cases are reported in Jordan every month.

Shammout also said that the Ministry of Health was going ahead with a campaign to provide immunisation against tetanus. The campaign is largely directed against young women and mothers. Shammout said, and noted that the diseases is deadly in 90 per cent of the cases.



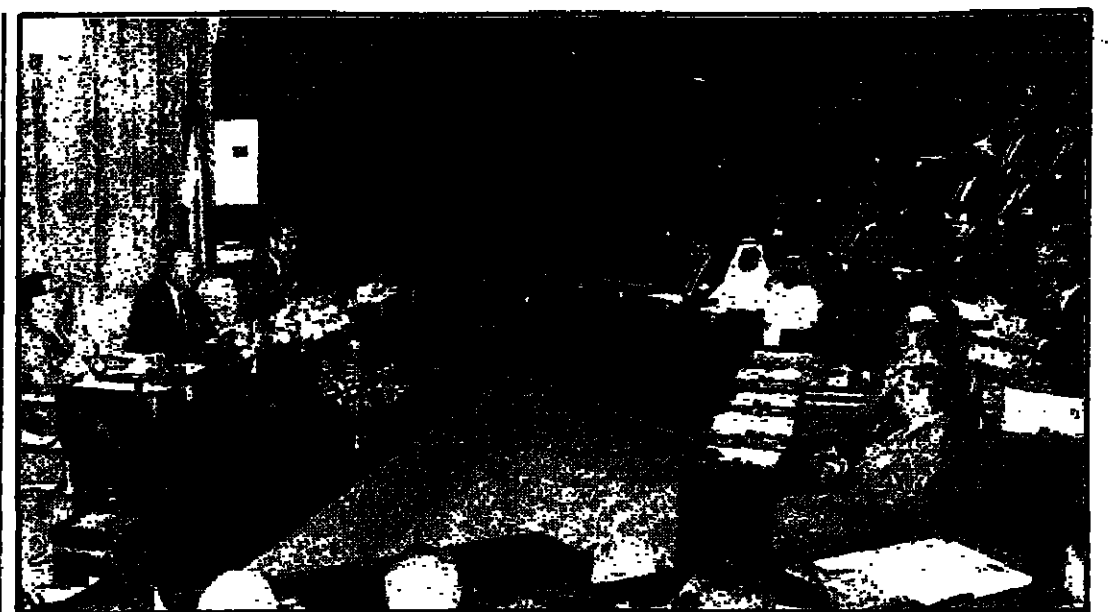
LECTURE: Information Minister Hani Khawneh Sunday delivered a lecture at the Police Academy on the principles of Jordan's information policy. Present were senior officers from the Public Security Department and the Police Academy (Petra photo).

GRADUATION:

A new batch of police and security officers specialising in bodyguarding graduated here Sunday at a ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali. The graduates who have just concluded a rigorous training course presented a performance of their skills in shooting at mobile and stationary targets during the graduation ceremony. They later received their diplomas and awards from Lt.-Gen. Majali (Petra photo).



BOOKS, BOOKS: An exhibition of British books on the Islamic world was opened Sunday at the University of Jordan. The exhibition which was opened by the University's Vice President Mahmoud Al Samra includes about 250 titles and aims at acquainting the university's students and teaching staff with the United Kingdom's latest publications on various Islamic topics. The exhibition which is organised by the British Council in Amman is to last for three days.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan (centre on the rostrum) Sunday presides over an Arab conference convened to discuss water strategy in the Arab World.

12 Arab countries discuss water resources

Conference seeks joint water strategy

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Delegates from 12 Arab countries including Jordan opened a two-day meeting at the University of Jordan Sunday to discuss water resources in the Arab World and means of developing them for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

water problems, joint Arab action in water affairs, the sources of the Rivers Nile, Tigris, Euphrates and the River Jordan are to be reviewed.

The two-day meeting was organised by the WRSC, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Royal Scientific Society.

Last November, Dakhqan told a regional seminar in Amman, which convened to discuss management of water resources, that the Kingdom was expected to need 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005.

He said the Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to intensify efforts to provide sufficient amounts through prospecting for new sources and through the construction of dams and drilling of additional artesian wells.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan opened the meeting with a speech noting that Jordan has been striving to handle its water problems, and expressing hopes that the present conference will provide new ideas and pave the ground for inter-Arab cooperation in water-related affairs.

Jordan which has limited water resources attaches great importance to the conference and to a unified water strategy for the Arab World, the minister said.

Dr. Adnan Al Bakht, dean of the scientific research department at the University of Jordan, called on Arab countries to cooperate in water resources exploitation in a bid to avoid any shortages. He said the University of Jordan has established a Water Research and Study Centre (WRSC) in order to help the Kingdom exploit and manage its water resources on a sound basis.

The director of the WRSC Dr. Elias Salameh told the meeting that the Arab World lacks a proper water resources strategy and lacks sufficient water resources to cope with all needs at

all levels. The present water resources are not sufficient for drinking and irrigation and domestic purposes, and therefore close and more serious cooperation should be initiated by the Arab states to deal with the problem, Salameh said.

He said that the meeting is designed to identify the real amounts of water needed for different purposes in the Arab area and ways through which the Arab World can cooperate to develop these resources.

Working papers on water strategy, ways of dealing with

BA links Amman to Gatwick

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Airways has announced its new summer schedule effective March 27, 1989. For the first time Amman would be linked to London Gatwick, the second busiest international airport in the world.

Operating three flights a week — Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, British Airways benefits from using the newest and most modern terminal in Europe — The North Terminal London Gatwick.

Express trains operate every 15 minutes into the centre of London taking only 30 minutes. Geoff Rhodes, BA manager for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon says: "We are proud to be linked to London Gatwick which is close to the heart of London and very much a part of BA successful expansion from the London area. London Gatwick is fast growing with new modern terminals and is developing connections worldwide. We will continue to operate this summer the very popular Tristar."

AGENTS REQUIRED

INTERFAIRS
International Fairs and Services for the Arab World.
organisers of
"THE 15TH MOTEXHA/CHILDEXPO"
26-29 October 1989
the International Fashion and Textile Trade Fair presenting men, women and children's wear, clothing fabrics, home textiles, fashion accessories, toys and child care products to the Arab World in Dubai since 1978.
"THE DUBAI INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW '89"
7-10 November 1989
The International Fair for the Motor Industry in the Middle East Region.
"GIFTEX"
2-5 May 1990
The International Trade Fair for gifts, novelties, stationery, tableware, crystalware and gadgets
At the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates
require Agents to promote the above Fairs by inviting Manufacturers, Producers and Exporters to participate
Interested parties, please contact:
The Managing Director
INTERFAIRS
P.O. Box 2919 DUBAI, U.A.E.
Tel: 9714-285899 / Tlx: 49058 FAIRS EM / Fax: 9714-236065



FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:

- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- Arabic language courses for foreigners
- Music courses (Piano - Flute - Guitare - Saxophone)
- Arts courses for women (Art of Flower Making, Silk Painting, Ceramics, Painting on glass).

The registration will last on Thursday Apr. 6, 1989 and the course will start on Saturday Apr. 8, until Apr. 22, 1989.

For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445, Amman.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جورن التيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

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DR. WALEED M. SADI

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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One way out for Lebanon

IT has become clear now that current Arab and international efforts to stop the carnage in Lebanon have not succeeded to the degree desired and aspired for. The latest call by the U.N. Security Council on the parties to the Lebanese conflict to stop the bloodbath has only brought additional indiscriminate shelling of civilian targets. Obviously a different kind of panacea must be sought in view of the fact that all past efforts, no matter how sincere, have failed to stem the internecine fighting and killing in Lebanon. To begin with, being an Arab country and a full fledged member of the Arab League, Lebanon and Lebanese affairs must be viewed as essentially Arab affairs and concerns. It follows, therefore, that more is expected from the Arab World to stop the fighting in Lebanon than from the rest of the international community.

After fifteen years of trials and errors by many external parties, not to mention the tribulations and sufferings of the Lebanese people themselves, it is high time to come into grips with the armed conflict in Lebanon before any functional attempt can be made to resolve all the political, social and economical issues compounding the Lebanese scene. Given these realities, which have been proven over and over again for the past fifteen years, one is forced to conclude that only the deployment of an inter-Arab peace keeping force in Lebanon can offer a chance to cool off emotions and stop the killing in Lebanon as a necessary prelude to the kind of dialogue and rectifications in the Lebanese structure that are indispensable for a durable peace and stability in that country. Such an inter-Arab peace keeping force could be constituted of neutral Arab states which have not taken sides or pronounced judgments on the guilt or innocence of the various fighting factions in Lebanon.

To be sure, if there is ever need for an inter-Arab peace keeping force it is now and in Lebanon to be exact. There is simply no other operational formula to stop the bloodletting in Lebanon and it is high time that the full spirit of the Arab League be brought to practice in bleeding Lebanon. The Arab World has the tools and machinery to come to the rescue of the Lebanese people and it is their solemn duty to act in a way that has the potential of reversing the tide of war and destruction in Lebanon. The projected Arab summit due to be held in Riyadh soon could very well serve as the launching pad for such an Arab peace force. For the sake of Lebanon and the Lebanese, the Arab World is duty bound to give peace in Lebanon a viable chance.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE work of the six-member Arab League mediation committee is tackled by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Sunday. The paper said that the committee is currently pursuing its efforts to end the mad war in Lebanon and to end the sufferings of the Lebanese people. The on-going fighting between the two parties in the Lebanese capital and its suburbs does not pose a serious threat to Lebanon alone, but rather to the whole Arab region, and opens the way for Israel and its agents to benefit from the strife, the paper noted. It is no wonder then, adds the paper, to see the Israelis bent on prolonging the fighting as much as possible on the one hand, and to see the Arab League trying with all its force to end the war on the other. The six-member committee wants to end the war which is draining Arab resources and weakening the Arab Nation; and above all, distracting the Arabs from their real enemy which is occupying the Palestinian land, the paper pointed out. It said that the Arabs must end the conflict and the bloodshed in Lebanon so that they can exert all their efforts towards convening an international peace conference to end the ordeal of the Palestinian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily refers to rumours circulated in the Western press about Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation with Argentina for the manufacture of a new generation of rockets capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Tareq Masareh, says the rumours were circulated on the eve of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to the United States to take up the Middle East question and demand an end to Israel's occupation. The rumours were timed to coincide with the visit in a bid to weaken Egypt's position and render the president's attempts futile, the writer notes. He says that the Iraqis are determined to possess sufficient power, nuclear or otherwise, to deter any enemy attack on its territory and all the Arabs have the right to possess means to defend themselves so as not to remain under the mercy of Israel and its Western allies. The writer says that the time has come when the Arabs were considered to be a weak nation incapable of rising to meet the challenge.

In an editorial, Al Dustour daily called on Israel to wake up to the fact that it can never perpetuate its occupation of the occupied Arab territory. The paper said that Israel should realise that its war machinery and its iron fist policies and the repression it exercises on the Palestinians can by no means prolong its stay in the Arab land. The paper said that Israel has tried to quell the uprising with all its force and its power, but has failed so far to achieve this goal because the Palestinians are determined to regain their rights and their land at any cost, regardless of the sacrifices. The paper referred to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States which it said was preceded by a campaign of killings and home demolition and detention of Arabs in the occupied territories. It said that such atrocities will not gain Shamir any support from the U.S. administration which is awaiting new ideas for a settlement.

Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled the monetary and financial measures taken by the government in the past years to revitalise the national economy. It said that the measures have borne fruit and are steering the economy in its right path. The paper said that this view was backed by the International Monetary Fund team which has been holding talks with the Jordanian government.

Weekly Political Pulse

Arab strategy for human rights

By Waleed Sadi

IT is most relevant that Jordan has hosted the recent 'Arab conference on human rights and humanitarian issues. Full credit for Jordan's pioneering initiatives in these domains go to His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, who on more than one international occasion made Jordan voice on them well known. As recently as the occasion of the convening of the select summit on the protection of the earth's space from dangerous pollutants at the Hague last month, His Majesty the King made the most poignant observation to that gathering when he reminded them that the right to life stands out as the most precious and fundamental right of all other human rights. In so saying and declaring, King Hussein has set the tone for Jordan's perspective and ideology in the realm of human rights. Likewise, Crown Prince Hassan's decades-long involvement in humanitarian issues, touching deeply on human rights pursuits, found recent expression in his co-chairing of the International Independent Commission on Humanitarian Issues. The relevancy of such commitments to human rights goals and aspirations lies in the fact that they define Jordan's orientation and perspective in human rights standards.

No country or a group of countries or even individuals for that matter can pursue the subject of human rights and humanitarian issues without the benefit of a clearly defined strategy and ideology. This proposition brings us to the Arab World face to face with the fact that we need to develop an inter-Arab strategy towards human rights and humanitarian issues. It goes without

saying that the elaboration and formulation of such an Arab perspective on human rights and humanitarian issues would require a thorough consultation and afirethought within the context of an independent Arab commission constituted of experts enjoying the highest possible calibre of moral and ethical standards. As the Arab countries share many common conflicts and issues, not to mention one history, and are, relatively speaking, of the same age politically, socially and culturally, there are clearly many shared common denominators that would necessitate the formulation of a shared attitude and ideology on such pressing issues as human rights and humanitarian issues.

In fact the Arab delegations to various international and regional fora on such subjects as human rights and humanitarian issues seldom speak with one tongue not to mention one ideal and standard. The only human rights subject that artificially bring them together are those related to Israeli practices in the occupied territories. By and large Arab contributions to human rights deliberations are formalistic and devoid of a distinct ideology and perspective. The distinct impression that Arab speakers leave among other participants in human rights meetings is that they are not there specifically to promote human rights. The lack of Arab coherence on human rights subjects and humanitarian issues often mars Arab intellectual and political prowess on them and in the final analysis smears the Arab image altogether before other civilisations.

As Arab and Islamic standards and practices on these subjects

are indeed rich and on par in excellence with contributions of other civilisations, be they from the East or the West, the Arab World is doing itself a great deal of injustice and doing its image an irreparable harm by not drawing heavily on our Islamic and Arab traditions and heritages when formulating our final judgments on such subjects. In the realm of humanitarian issues, Arab military culture is so humane and progressive that could dwarf even the most contemporary efforts to fortify humanitarian practices in armed conflicts as reflected in the two 1977 protocols to the Geneva Conventions. Similarly, our religion, heritage and culture are laden with clearly defined standards on human rights aspirations and objectives that could fill thousands of pages. When the West keeps on bragging that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948 and all other human rights instruments adopted on the heels of that Declaration are the product of Western civilisation, we Arabs are duty bound to make our contributions on the basis of our culture and heritage audible enough for all the world to hear and appreciate; to remind everyone that Arabs have a great history and civilisation.

Any such inter-Arab independent commission on human rights and humanitarian issues, as suggested above, would serve as the kind of platform from which to launch such an Arab contribution to human rights and humanitarian issues worldwide. There is no more excuse to stay silent on such contemporary matters, and since we as Arabs have a lot to say about them, we are duty bound to make our voice heard loud and clear.

Pledge to save planet Earth

The following is the full text of the Declaration of the Hague, signed on March 11 by 24 states for the protection of the ozone layer. His Majesty King Hussein signed the Declaration on behalf of Jordan.

Declaration of the Hague

THE RIGHT TO LIVE is the right from which all other rights stem. Guaranteeing this right is the paramount duty of those in charge of all States throughout the world.

Today, the very conditions of life on our planet are threatened by the severe attacks to which the earth's atmosphere is subjected.

Authoritative scientific studies have shown the existence and scope of considerable dangers linked in particular to the warming of the atmosphere and to the deterioration of the ozone layer. The latter has already led to action, under the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol, while the former is being addressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climatic Change established by UNEP and WMO, which has just begun its work. In addition the U.N. General Assembly adopted Resolution 43/53 on the Protection of the Global Climate in 1988, recognising climate change as a common concern of mankind.

According to present scientific knowledge, the consequences of these phenomena may well jeopardise ecological systems as well as the most vital interests of mankind at large.

Because the problem is planet-wide in scope, solutions can only be devised on a global level. Because of the nature of the dangers involved, remedies to be sought involve not only the fundamental duty to preserve the ecosystem, but also the right to live in dignity in a viable global environment, and the consequent duty of the community of nations vis-a-vis present and future generations to do all that can be done to preserve the quality of the atmosphere.

Therefore we consider that, faced with a problem the solution to which has three salient features, namely that it is vital, urgent and global, we are in a situation that calls not only for implementation of existing principles but also for a new approach, through the development of new principles of international law including new and more effective decision-making and enforcement mechanisms.

What is needed here are regulatory, supportive and adjustment measures that take into account the participation and potential contribution of countries which have reached different levels of development. Most of the emissions that affect the atmosphere at present originate in the industrialised nations. And it is in these same nations that the room for change is greatest, and these nations are also those which have the greatest resources to deal with this problem effectively.

The international community and especially the industrialised nations have special obligations to assist developing countries which will be very negatively affected by changes in the atmosphere although the responsibility of many of them for the process may only be marginal today.

Financial institutions and development agencies, be they international or domestic, must coordinate their activities in order to promote sustainable development.

Without prejudice to the international obligations of each State, the signatories acknowledge and will promote the following principles:

(a) The principle of developing, within the framework of the United Nations, new institutional authority, either by strengthening existing institutions or by creating a new institution, which, in the

context of the preservation of the earth's atmosphere, shall be responsible for combating any further global warming of the atmosphere and shall involve such decision-making procedures as may be effective even if, on occasion, unanimous agreement has not been achieved;

(b) The principle that this institutional authority undertake or commission the necessary studies, be granted appropriate information upon request, ensure the circulation and exchange of scientific and technological information — including facilitation of access to the technology

needed — develop instruments and define standards to enhance or guarantee the protection of the atmosphere and monitor compliance herewith;

(c) The principle of appropriate measures to promote the effective implementation of and compliance with the decisions of the new institutional authority, decisions which will be subject to control by the International Court of Justice;

(d) The principle that countries to which decisions taken to protect the atmosphere shall prove to be an abnormal or special burden, in view, inter alia, of the level of their development and actual responsibility for the deterioration of the atmosphere, shall receive fair and equitable

assistance to compensate them for bearing such burden. To this end mechanisms will have to be developed;

(e) The negotiation of the necessary legal instruments to provide an effective and coherent foundation, institutionally and financially, for the aforementioned principles.

The Heads of State and Government or their representatives, who have expressed their endorsement of this Declaration by placing their signatures under it, stress their resolve to promote the principles thus defined by:

— furthering the development of their initiative within the United Nations and in close coordination and collaboration with existing agencies set up under the

auspices of the United Nations,

— inviting all States of the world and the international organisations competent in this field to join in developing, taking into account studies by the IPCC, the framework conventions and other legal instruments necessary to establish institutional authority and to implement the other principles stated above to protect the atmosphere and to counter climate change, particularly global warming;

— urging all States of the world and the international organisations competent in this field to sign and ratify conventions relating to the protection of nature and the environment;

— calling upon all States of the world to endorse the present dec-

laration. The original of this Declaration, drawn up in French and English, will be transmitted to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which will retain it in its archives. Each of the participating States will receive from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands a true copy of this Declaration.

The Prime Minister of the Netherlands is requested to transmit the text of this Declaration, which is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, to all members of the United Nations.

The Hague, March 11, 1989.

Syrian hopes buoyed by oil rise

By Geraldine Bishop

NICOSIA, Cyprus — A hundred thousand barrels of oil a day may be a drop in the ocean of oil already possessed by the major producers in the Middle East, but it may prove important in Syria's struggle towards economic recovery.

The Omar oilfield, which came onstream in mid-February, has brought Syria's oil production to about 300,000 barrels a day, about the same as the current output by OPEC member Qatar. Syria is not a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, but it forms part of the smaller regional grouping, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Prime Minister Mahmoud Zuhri, who announced the increase in a well publicised ceremony at Dair Al Zor, in eastern Syria, also said the country's crude oil production would rise to 400,000 b/d before the end of the year and more when results of current exploration become known. Syria expects, he said, to benefit from as yet unproven reserves. British Petroleum surveys have determined Syria's reserves to be 1.8 billion barrels (300 million tonnes), or about 2 per cent of the world total.

Syria has been pumping oil since the early 1960s but, unable to match the massive output by its neighbours, missed the bus in the pan-Arab prosperity brought about by the price boom of the 1970s. Once again, however, experts see the Syrian attempts at boosting oil production and exports as ill-timed — with prices depressed and the market facing a glut of about 2 million barrels a day of excess oil.

OPEC in recent weeks has reported success with its diplomatic drive for a price and production discipline — fundamentally, the decision by each and every producer to restrain output and refrain from discounting. How the Syrian increase sits with the OPEC price vigilantes remains unclear, but it has been greeted with enthusiasm in Damascus.

At current prices the additional output should bring at least \$1.5 million of hard currency into the Syrian treasury at a time of need. This will be at a time when President Hafez Al Assad is having to respond positively to the urgings of his Arab counterparts to bring his politics into line with Syria's economic realities. The country's infrastructure needs further cash

infusions but these are increasingly difficult to arrange because of what one Arab diplomat described as "previous Syrian dissonance."

President Assad's response has been to "gradually correct his course," as one diplomat put it.

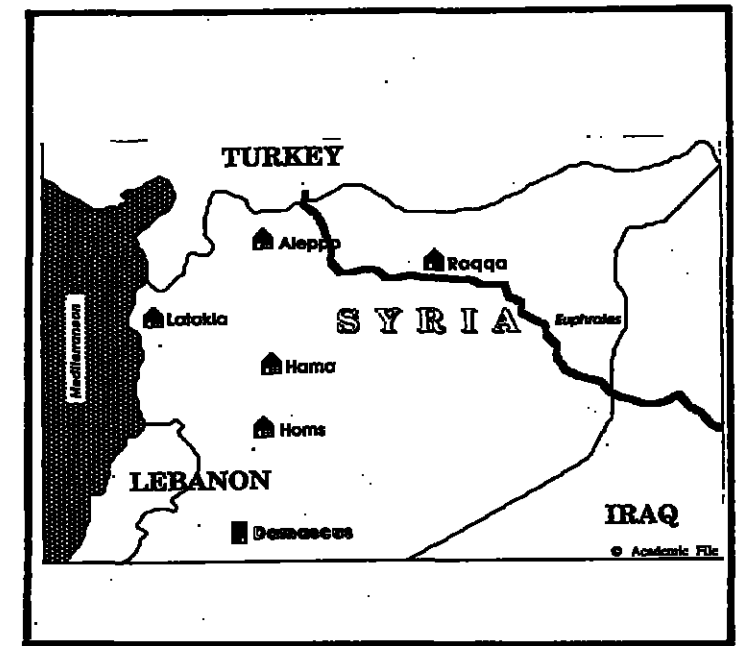
One indication of Syria's softening came during recent contacts prior to the May meeting of the OAPEC, where Egypt's readmission to the group is due to be discussed and, according to Arab observers, finalised. Assad had been opposing Egyptian re-entry but apparently gave in due to

'persistent and persuasive' diplomatic missions from other Arab countries. An indication of the shift came when the Egyptian agriculture minister turned up unexpectedly at a recent conference hosted by Syria.

Economic revival now is a top priority for President Assad amid a chronic recession caused chiefly by military spending and a mounting military debt to the Soviet Union. The proportion of development investment in Syria declined from about 60 per cent in 1970 to 49 per cent in 1982 and in subsequent years state spending in several key sectors has failed to pick up.

Although agriculture and industrial development progressed in the past two decades, despite the setbacks of the 1967 war and Syria's involvement in Lebanon, the country's balance of payments difficulties multiplied during the period.

Syria's total external debt liability has jumped from \$3.2 billion in 1982 to \$4.5 billion, but this excludes the military debt to Moscow, which may be as high as \$14 billion. Any increase in the oil revenue, even in a depressed market as now, therefore is seen in Damascus as a welcome change — Academic File.



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Some stopped eating meat long ago

By Monte Hayes
The Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — From cab drivers to congressmen, Peruvians are asking what went wrong in this Andean nation, which faces economic chaos and a savage leftist insurgency that threatens to explode into civil war.

Peru had one of South America's strongest economies until the 1960s. But inflation hit a record 1,722 per cent last year and is expected to soar above 10,000 per cent in 1989, pushing wages down to survival levels. The economy shrank 9 per cent in 1988 and is likely to contract even more this year.

The collapse is putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work in the continent's third-largest country — and one of its poorest.

The economic collapse has hit the middle class and the poor the hardest. Purchasing power has plummeted by at least 50 per cent in the last year. A doctor at a public hospital earns the equivalent of \$80 a month. A public school teacher earns \$55. An army general's salary has fallen from \$1,100 a month in 1980 to \$200 today.

Although many blame President Alan Garcia, some independent analysts say the economic crisis had been building for decades and that Garcia's populist,

free-spending policies were simply the detonator.

14,000 dead

Attacks by the fanatical Shining Path guerrilla group also have accelerated in recent months, and the death toll from its 9-year-old insurgency has surpassed 14,000. Blackouts and bombs have become part of daily life in Lima.

"These are the days of the anonymous nocturnal bullet, of the slashing of throats of village officials, of the disappearance of union leaders," Cesar Hilderbrandt, editor of Si magazine, wrote in a recent column.

Highway bandits have begun waylaying buses and automobiles, making travel outside Lima dangerous and adding to the sense of a disintegrating nation where law and order have broken down.

Many Peruvians now speak of "the civil war that is coming," seeing it as inevitable.

"There is a very real danger that Peru, without realising it, is sinking deeper into the swamps of fratricidal war," Olga magazine warned in a recent editorial.

Surveys show most people have little faith that solutions will be found to the economic collapse or political chaos.

Garcia, a dynamic young leader, was elected in 1985 as "the president of hope." But his de-

fiant stance against paying foreign debt cut Peru off from international aid. Critics say his uncontrolled spending bankrupted the country.

Angry crowds now shout "Alan, you charlatan" when he speeds by in heavily armed convoys.

In recent months, Lima has been hit by waves of coup rumours. Many doubt the presidential election scheduled for April 1990 will take place.

Former Lima mayor Alfonso Barrantes, a Marxist, is one of the favourites in the campaign. The other front-runner is writer Mario Vargas Llosa, leader of a center-right coalition, but most polls show neither has majority support. Most of those polled say they trust none of the candidates.

"What worries me is the kind of future I am going to leave my children," said Morty Weissberg, 41, a second-generation Peruvian. "The future that this country offers is very different from the one 30 years ago when I was in the position of my children. Then there was a bright future for the country, at least apparently."

Late last year, Weissberg gave up a high-paying job as manager of a small metallurgical company and migrated with his wife and two small daughters to Canada.

150,000 emigrants

They were among 150,000 Peruvians, most of them professionals and skilled workers, who bought one-way tickets out the country in 1988, the largest exodus in Peru's history.

Many people blame the economic decline on several decades of government mismanagement, controls that have stifled private enterprise and strident nationalism that has frightened away foreign investors and isolated Peru from world financial centres.

A striking illustration of Peru's fall: in 1976 the country produced 34,000 automobiles, this year it is expected to assemble 3,500 at the most. There are no buyers for more.

But more than the somber economic future, Weissberg said what frightened him most were the country's deep class divisions and growing violence.

"It's the problem of living in a country that has a large population that is almost starving, has no means of support and is reproducing faster and faster all the time," he said.

That view is shared by many political analysts. They agree that Peru's social and racial divisions, inherited from the Spanish colonial era, have spawned class hatred that threatens to rip apart the fabric of society.



A father and his children in their home. There's a limit beyond which people can be pushed no further

The scorn and discrimination shown by the white elite toward the dark-skinned Indian and Mestizo majority has generated deep resentment among the poor, social scientists say.

Humiliation + oppression

"Political violence in Peru is not the result of poverty alone, but of humiliation, oppression, class hatred, racism," said Sen. Enrique Bernales, head of a blue-ribbon senate panel on violence.

Many Peruvian and foreign political experts say the country stands at a critical point in its history in which an antiquated, inequitable and inefficient political structure is crumbling.

"For me, the Shining Path is nothing more than the violent natural expression of this social explosion. If it had not been

Sendero, sooner or later there would have been another group," said Luis Lumbreras, one of Peru's most important archaeologists.

Lumbreras is from Ayacucho, the impoverished highland province where the Mao-inspired Shining Path — "Sendero luminoso" in Spanish — launched its insurgency in 1980, after 10 years of patient organising among Quechua-speaking Indians in the countryside.

Peru covers 1,285,216 square kilometres an area more than twice the size of France, and has a population of 21 million. But just as it is divided by class and race, it is sharply separated by geography into three regions — the Andean Sierra, the coastal deserts and the Amazon jungle — that have little in common.

Migrations

In the 1950s, highland peasants began to crowd into Lima, looking for a better life. The migration has accelerated in recent years as the countryside has turned into a battlefield.

With the Shining Path insurgency and the forced integration of Lima and other coastal cities, Peru's ruling white class has begun to feel challenged for the first time.

Lima, once the royal capital of the Spanish empire in South America, is surrounded by the bleakest shantytowns on the continent, home to two-thirds of the city's 7 million inhabitants.

The settlements look like encampments of a down-and-out invading army. Most shacks are of straw thatch, which would

wash away in a rainstorm. But Peru's bone-dry coast gets almost no rain and the highland squatters are saved from the calamity of losing their flimsy shelters.

Dorotea Sandoval lives with her husband and eight children in the shantytown of villa El Salvador, where mothers boil fish heads to give a thin broth to their children.

"We stopped eating meat a long time ago," she said.

Lima's increasingly insecure rich live behind high walls in suburbs to which entry is controlled by gates and armed guards.

Except for the pockets of the rich, Lima has a threadbare look. Many dogs sometimes mingle with the poor to dig through piles of garbage in front of deteriorating homes in middle-class neighbourhoods.

Sri Lanka: people power the election promise

By Mallika Wanigasundara

SRI LANKA — The ruling United National Party (UNP) fought the presidential election early this year at the lowest point of its popularity. Against all expectations, its candidate, Ranasinghe Premadasa, was elected by a slim majority.

But within two months the UNP turned the tide in its favour and won all but two districts and 125 seats in a 225-member Parliament.

UNP projected Premadasa as a man of the people, a champion of the poor — as he hailed not from the rich, elite upper strata that has ruled the country since independence, but from the poor of the slum suburbs of Colombo.

But the one single economic platform on which the UNP swept the polls was President Premadasa's poverty alleviation scheme called Jana Saviya (People's Strength) — an unorthodox and controversial innovation.

Unlike the celebrated "trickle down" theory propounded by many economists, it is intended as a massive transfer of resources directly to the poor. It is an attempt to build up their health status and their capacity for investment in small undertakings and cottage industries.

During the next two years, 14 lakhs of families numbering around 7 million people will each receive an allowance of \$75.75 a month: half of this will be given for everyday consumption, while the balance will be held in bank accounts for the two-year period.

At the end of that time the



Black students speak out after whites beat up blacks at UMass, Amherst

Study finds crimes of racism more violent than thought

By Arlene Levinson
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Crimes motivated by bigotry are more violent than previously assumed, according to a study by Northeastern University.

"The idea that a civil rights violation consists of kids painting graffiti on a church or throwing a rock through a window does not describe the type of incidents reported to the Boston police," Professor Jack McDevitt wrote in his study for the center for applied social research at Northeastern University.

"More than 50 per cent of the incidents of racial violence identified in our study are acts of a very serious and potentially injury-resulting character."

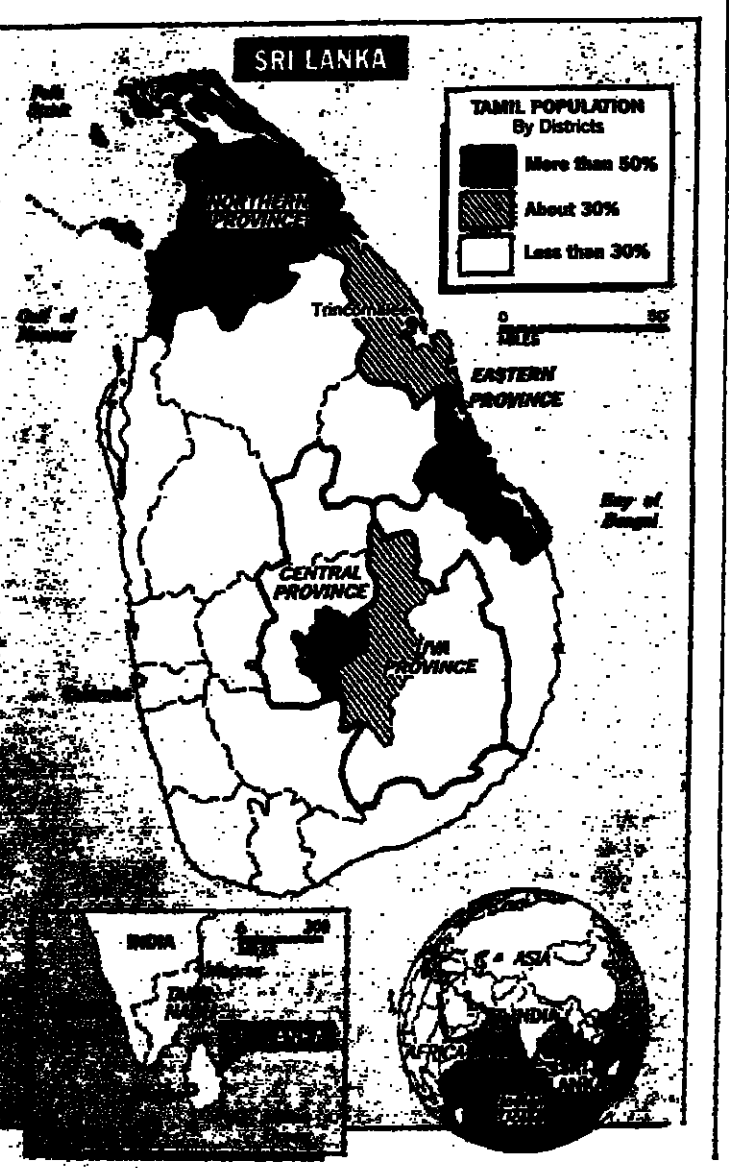
The study, released Monday, examined 452 crimes reported from 1983 to 1987 and identified by the Boston Police community disorders unit as motivated by bigotry.

The crimes included whites assaulting a white boyfriend of a black female, bricks thrown through windows, a Swastika painted on a synagogue and assaults on homosexuals.

Fifty-three per cent of the crimes were categorised as physical assaults, and 47 per cent as property damage.

Howard J. Ehrlich, research director of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, an independent organisation in Baltimore, called the Northeastern study "the first really decent analysis of hard data."

Such research reinforces findings of the Baltimore Institute that one out of four or five minority persons will be victimised during the course of a year,



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'Rising interest rates worsen debt problem'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rising interest rates in the United States and elsewhere are making it harder to solve the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt problem, a top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

The official, H. Onno Ruding, is finance minister of the Netherlands and chairman of the fund's Interim Committee, which makes many of the fund's major decisions. The committee's 22 members, including U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, will hold a semi-annual meeting here Monday.

"I expect some of the minister-members to establish a link between economic developments on the one hand and the debt problem... in the sense that the rising rates of interest in the world, particularly here in this country but elsewhere too of course, complicates substantially the resolution of the international debt problem," he told reporters.

It has been estimated that interest rate increases will raise costs to the debtors by \$12 billion this year over those for 1988. The rise of interest rates has been encouraged by the U.S. Federal Reserve system to hold

back the threat of inflation. Ruding welcomed Brady's plan for reducing Third World debt and predicted that other members would, too, partly because of new elements in it and partly because it includes other elements that have already been suggested — such as the emphasis on reducing the total debt.

He said there would be a problem in reconciling the plan with a previous statement by the committee that the responsibility for debts to commercial banks should not be transferred to the shoulders of taxpayers. U.S. leaders have also said there should be no such transfer.

"In other words, no bail-out of commercial banks — that was basically what we were saying," Ruding said.

"Can that be reconciled with the newest ideas? I think partially yes, partially no. I think I will put that question to my colleagues to answer whether that statement

still holds true or not. After all, we said that unanimously last time," he added.

He was referring to the committee's most recent meeting in Berlin, last October.

He said there was doubt whether the fund — which is owned by governments — can provide financing to assure interest payments to commercial banks, as Brady has suggested. Ruding welcomed Friday's agreement between the World Bank and the fund on setting conditions for their new loans and said many governments would be relieved. But he added:

"The underlying problem is still there. They overlap, and as long as they overlap you'll step on each other's toes... that may lead to a renewal of complications."

Frank Vogel, a spokesman for the World Bank, said the accord provides the fund with authority over "aggregate macroeconomic policy," which gives the IMF the leading role in deciding how loans may affect the economy of a borrowing country. The agreement also leaves a loophole for the World Bank to continue to make certain non-development project loans.

Over 50% of Soviets struggle financially

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A top Communist Party researcher acknowledged in an article published Saturday that more than half of Soviet citizens don't have enough cash for a "rational consumer budget."

The researcher, G. Zhuravlyov of the Academy of Social Sciences of the party's Central Committee, didn't go as far as to say that poverty exists in the Soviet Union. But he came very close in the article in Vechernyaya Moskva (Evening Moscow).

"For a long time, no one talked about poverty," Zhuravlyov said. "People said that it simply didn't exist in socialist countries. But in our country, at least 40 million

people can be described as poorly supplied."

If it is assumed that a rational consumer budget is 250-300 roubles (\$400-\$480) per person and if the low purchasing ability of the rouble and growth of prices is taken into account, then more than half of the country's population, with per capita incomes of less than 125 roubles (\$200) per month, cannot be called rich," he said.

The average industrial salary in the Soviet Union is 217 roubles (\$347) a month. Most families live in tight quarters with rents of only 25 roubles to 40 roubles a month, but a pair of boots costs about a month's pay.

Zhuravlyov also pointed to new research that shows that families with the lowest cash incomes also have some of the smallest living spaces, typically allocated by government authorities.

The poorest families, with per capita incomes under 70 roubles (\$112) per month, have just three to five square metres of living space per person, he wrote.

Many of the poorest are simply low-income families with three and four children, Zhuravlyov wrote. Such large families are a rarity in Russia, but not in the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, under the Communist Party's agricultural reform plan which was released by the official news agency TASS Saturday, even city dwellers will have the opportunity to farm small plots of leased land.

The plan, adopted two weeks ago, calls for the diversification of agriculture in a country where the government forced the vast majority of land into massive collective farms in the 1930s. Individuals, families and small groups will be encouraged to lease land and contract to produce food.

Earlier reports spoke only of rural residents leasing land, but the full text refers also to city-

dwellers.

Most Soviet urban residents live in high-rise apartment buildings, even on the outskirts of town. Some reform economists have suggested that the severe housing shortage might be eased by helping individuals to build their own homes.

Politburo member and party agricultural chief Yegor Ligachev, who has been a champion of collective farming and previously barely mentioned leasing, said in an interview on Soviet television Saturday that private farmers constitute a large share of the nation's agricultural system.

"It is necessary to remove all the limitations in this type of economy, especially in providing land to them," he said. "If there is demand for one, two or three hectares, it is necessary to provide it." A hectare is about 2.5 acres.

The party's reform plan calls for "removing ungrounded limits on wishes for residential gardens and truck garden or orchard plots," according to the TASS transcript.

The TASS report also said that unprofitable collective farms, food-processing and other agricultural enterprises must develop plans to end their losses within the next two years.

In cases where the measures

undertaken do not guarantee the profitable work of the money-losing enterprises, they can be reorganised according to regulations or liquidated, with their land transferred to other collective farms, industrial enterprises, cooperative leasing collectives and individual farmers," it added.

Prices will be set for main farm products for the next five years, the TASS report said. But fruit and vegetable prices will be set by contract.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev showing impatience at the slowness of reform, has warned the shortage of food in shops could pose a threat to the reform programme.

"The food problem is the fundamental problem at present," Gorbachev was quoted as saying by the Communist Party newspaper, Pravda.

"If we solve it, there will be a colossal victory not only in the economy but also in the political and social spheres," he told a meeting of media editors.

Pravda said Gorbachev urged support for agricultural reforms. "If we fail to solve the problem, frankly speaking, we can ruin the whole perestroika (restructuring) and bring about serious destabilisation of society," he said.

Turkish premier takes direct charge of economic policies

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, smarting from a major election defeat, has taken personal charge of economic policy to lead the fight against rampant inflation and labour unrest.

Ozal, who last week dismissed his unpopular brother Yusuf Ozal as economy supreme, has to push through an anti-inflation austerity programme without further alienating voters weary of economic hardships.

"It will be very tough for the government to solve the social aspects like labour unrest and public suffering," said Erdogan Alkin, professor of economics at Istanbul University. "It will be unable to run a very strict monetary policy."

But Ozal has said his top priority is an austerity drive to control inflation, now running at an

annual rate of 72 per cent.

Diplomats and bankers say the prime minister's political future depends on getting the economic mix right.

Inflation is seen as the main reason why more than three out of every four Turks voted against Ozal's Motherland Party in municipal elections a week ago.

Though Motherland has a big parliamentary majority and is likely to win a possible no-confidence vote Tuesday, political analysts said the government's unpopularity could force an early general election.

Central bank and treasury officials seemed unusually optimistic that Ozal would succeed in his major attempt in the past 14 months to bring down the cost of living.

Their morale was raised when Yusuf Ozal, whose high-handed

style had sparked resentment, lost his job as state minister in charge of the economy in a cabinet reshuffle Friday.

The prime minister will take direct control of the state-dominated economy in a move seen as strengthening the hand of central bank governor Resud Saracoglu, a strict monetarist who criticised government pressure on him to print more money.

"We will lift all the pressure off the back of the central bank," acting treasury head Namik Kemal Kilic told Reuters.

"Pressures from the kitchen"

But the buying power of wages in real terms has slumped over the past 10 years, and popular feelings over what officials call the "pressures from the kitchen," are running high.

Canada steps up ties with the Arab World

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Arab-Canadian chamber of commerce and industry has been set up to give Canadian industry greater opportunity in the Arab market, the chamber's designated secretary-general, Jalal Bakdash, said Saturday.

"Most of the Arab industrial imports from the United States were Canadian-made with a U.S. label," Bakdash told the Associated Press in Abu Dhabi.

Bakdash said that to date the Canadian industry had been "reluctant to enter" the Arab market, especially that of the oil-rich Gulf. "One of the joint chamber's main duties is to give Canadian businessmen a confidence injection," he said.

Bakdash said Canada's interest in the Arab market was an alternative to the American mar-

ket which he said has been beset by economic difficulties.

"Most of the products the Arabs import from the United States can be replaced with Canadian products at less cost," Bakdash said, indicating that the Canadian share of the Arab market could be at the expense of that of the United States.

He also said the Canadian economic turn to the Arab market coincided with a change in Canadian policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict into what he called "a more balanced position."

Canada only recently accepted dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"This will facilitate our job in the chamber in attracting Arabs to the Canadian market and lead to better Arab acceptance of the Canadian companies' participation in major projects in the Arab area," he said.

Discontent grows over Japan's new sales tax

TOKYO (R) — It wasn't easy getting through Sunday to Japan's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) hotline dealing with queries and complaints about the new nationwide consumer tax.

"The phones haven't stopped ringing with complaints the past two days since the tax came into effect," said an EPA official, among eight people staffing the hotline.

The sales tax of three per cent, which came into effect Saturday, is levied on most commodities, including food and clothing.

The unpopular tax comes at a time when public discontent is growing with the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, already battered by charges of corruption.

"Most of the people call us to complain that merchants are raising their prices far above the three per cent," the official said. The worst offenders reportedly increased prices by 10 per cent, he said. The agency plans to send investigators to look into the complaints.

The new tax has led to widespread fears of inflation, with the central bank of Japan has promised to monitor.

The EPA official could not say how many calls were received. "All I can say is our phones ring non-stop from 9.30 a.m. when we start work all the way up to five."

The new tax kept many shoppers away from department stores and other shops, according to a snap survey published Sunday by the ministry of international trade and industry.

By late afternoon Saturday, 97 per cent of the 148 stores surveyed reported a drop in business that they attributed to the new tax.

Truckers showed their disapproval of the sales tax Sunday in a 50-vehicle demonstration that rolled through the streets of downtown Tokyo, Kyodo News Agency reported.

Burning up

Akinori Umehara, a 48-year-old truck driver told Kyodo: "When I think that every single thing I eat or drink is going to be hit with a three per cent tax, I burn up."

Guyana drastically devalues currency, hikes interest rates

GEORGETOWN (AP) — Complying with International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions for aid, Guyana has drastically devalued its currency and doubled interest rates to 35 per cent.

With the measure, the Guyana currency, previously fixed at 10 to the U.S. dollar, was officially 33.3 to \$1. However, by Saturday the U.S. dollar was fetching 62 Guyana dollars on the black market.

The prices for rice, fuel, cooking gas and airline tickets were tripled Saturday. Average daily wages here are the equivalent of \$2.30 while a loaf of bread costs \$5.

To the cries of "shame, shame and hardship" from opposition parliamentarians, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge announced during a budget hearing late Friday that the devaluation measure

would be accompanied by a wage increase of only 20 per cent.

"This is a budget of violence," said Cheddi Jagan, leader of the Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party.

Though the tough austerity measures were taken to satisfy IMF conditions for a \$1.9 billion aid package, Greenidge said the IMF has refused to conclude the deal until finance-starved Guyana raises an additional \$50 million in bridging finance to clear arrears with the fund.

Greenidge said the government expects to raise the money in two weeks.

Guyana, which has had zero growth in 10 years, is attempting to secure the IMF package to revamp its stagnant economy.

This South American nation's main foreign-exchange earnings exports — bauxite, sugar and rice

— recorded drops in production

of up to 30 per cent in 1988. For several months, this former British colony of 750,000 has been plagued by hardships caused by power rationing and outages, food and fuel shortages and spiralling inflation, causing sporadic strikes and food riots.

The Mirror, the opposition party's newspaper, said Saturday the austerity package was "murderous, and it will create unprecedented hardships." It said the last devaluation two years ago "caused a drop in real wages by 45 per cent. This new steeper one will cause greater misery."

Since the death of socialist President Forbes Burnham in 1985, President Desmond Hoyte has veered to the right by privatising state enterprises and encouraging foreign capital investments.

British firm raises stake in Latour

LONDON (R) — British food and drinks group Allied-Lyons PLC has moved to take a controlling interest in the prestigious Chateau Latour vineyard in France's Bordeaux region.

Allied-Lyons said it planned to buy a 53.5 per cent stake in Societe Civile Du Vignoble De Chateau Latour now held by British publishing and financial services conglomerate Pearson PLC.

Allied, whose brands include Teachers and Ballantine Scotch whisky, Drambuie liqueur, Irish cream sherry and Cockburn Port, already owns 25.2 per cent of Latour.

The next steps, Allied said, is a

statement, would be to try to buy the rest of the Chateau, which produces a highly prized first growth Claret.

Allied offered Pearson \$56.2 million (\$94.4 million) for the stake and said it planned to buy the remainder of Latour for similar terms from other shareholders.

Pearson chairman Lord Blakenham said Latour was an outstanding investment but Pearson had no related businesses.

Allied chairman Sir Derrick Holden-Brown said in a world market where demand was increasingly for internationally famous names and premium qual-

ity, Chateau Latour was of outstanding value as part of Allied's portfolio of famous drink brands.

The deal is set for completion before the end of May after certain conditions, including French government requirements, have been met, Pearson said.

As a matter of course, France's finance ministry watches deals involving prestige French firms including Noble Vineyards, which are considered part of the national heritage.

But generally it does not raise objections provided the buyer is a European Community company.

Austrians cash in on Hungarians

BUDAPEST (R) — Hundreds of thousands of Hungarians are dashing to Austria to beat new customs rules aimed at saving the country much-needed hard currency.

Hungary is raising general customs duties by half to 45 per cent on April 8 and cutting concessions to staunch the drain on the economy since it liberalised passport laws last year. The decision sent shoppers stampeding across

the border.

The Communist Party daily Nepszabadsag reported last week that the border crossings were already under a "state of siege."

"We expect about 500,000 people to cross the border up to April 8," Gyorgy Balogh of customs and excise service said.

Not only will duties rise then but duty-free allowances will be halved.

Hungarians will also lose a break which allowed them to pack their relatives into the car for a cross-border shopping spree.

buy a large item and club all their allowances together to reduce the customs payment.

In 1988 Hungarian shoppers seized on the introduction of Eastern Europe's most liberal travel laws to import 150,000 video recorders and 50,000 personal computers, more than seven times as many of each as Hungarian companies imported.

As a result Hungary's hard currency balance on tourism — one of its most successful industries — collapsed.

Analysts highlight Australian stocks

SYDNEY (R) — After a dismal performance the Australian stockmarket is now probably the world's most attractive, with low share prices and generally good dividend pay-outs, stock analysts and economists said.

"The Australian market has become quite cheap in a global

context after failing to join in the early 1989 world sharemarket rally," Ord Minnett stock strategist Geoff Warren said.

"It also offers reasonable value in absolute terms," he told Reuters.

A study by Ord Minnett called "Australian Equities" said the weak performance of the last six months means much of the potential economic risks have been

factored into the market. Stock values have become very attractive.

"Selling pressure in the stock market appears to have dried up. If anything, the decision investors seem to be grappling with is when to buy," it added.

The Australian dollar plunged in February after bad trade figures and economists say it is vulnerable to further falls once

domestic interest rates ease.

"Weakness in the Australian dollar is a positive sign for the equity market, as it provides a boost for profits and could induce purchases from value-oriented international investors," Warren said.

In a global market study published by Morgan Stanley Capital International, Australia and the world's lowest stocks price/earnings ratio (P.E.) of 9.7 per cent. This compared with a world average, excluding Japan P.E. of 11.9 per cent. Japan's P.E. was a huge 57.1 per cent.

The Australian market looks even more attractive on a prospective P.E. basis, according to chief economist of investment bank County Natwest Australia Mark Fulton.

With a forecast that Australian P.E. would fall to around 8.2 per cent in 1990, Fulton said: "On a longer term note many companies show very good value."

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Consisting of: Large salon, dining room, two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, laundry room with fully automatic W.M., fully equipped spacious kitchen with refrigerator & deep-freezer, 3 balconies and a car-park.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, April 2, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.7	409.2
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	251.5	253.4
Pound Sterling	906.5	915.4	Swedish crown	83.5	84.2
Deutsche mark	263.0	265.9	Italian lira (for 100)	36.7	39.0
Swiss franc	32.5	326.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	135.4	136.5
French franc	84.0	84.7			

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Tender documents can be available as of Sunday, April 2nd, 1989, for a non-refundable fee of JD 80.000 from:

The Tenders Department
Municipality of Greater Amman
P.O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan
Telex: 21969 AMCITY-JO

Closing date for accepting bids is Monday 15th May, 1989 at 11:00 at the same address mentioned above. Bids will be opened one hour after the closing date.

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Arabic to English: must have excellent knowledge of Arabic, ability to translate into fluent idiomatic English. University Education, good working knowledge of current world affairs, ability to work under pressure with precision and speed, and to work day and evening shifts as required including weekends. Premium placed on Accuracy, Judgment, Dedication, Diligence, Reliability.

Send Typed or Printed C.V. and a recent picture to:

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Contact M. Bruno tel. 641254

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Muster stoic as Sabatini fends off Evert

KEY BISCAINE (R) — Austrian Thomas Muster was in a forgiving mood Saturday after suffering a severe knee injury in an automobile accident that could keep him out of tennis action for nine months.

"I am not angry at what's happened," said the 21-year-old Austrian Davis Cup star after leaving a Miami hospital for his hotel.

Muster, who was to have played Ivan Lendl in the final of the International Players Championships Sunday, was removing equipment from the boot of his car when a Miami driver hit it head-on and knocked him to the ground.

Muster tore both ligaments in his left knee. "I thought I'll never be able to walk again in my life," Muster said of his first thoughts after the accident.

"I was so shocked and scared, but I thought, 'Thank God I'm alive.' I just want to be a normal person and walking."

"This is a poor guy who did this. They took away his license two times before. Things like this can happen in seconds," he said of the accident that took place shortly after his five-set semifinal victory over Yannick Noah.

Dr. Charles Virgin, who treated Muster and put the leg in a cast, said the Austrian will need reconstructive surgery and would likely be out of action for six to nine months.

"I will probably drop in the rankings," said the 14th-ranked Muster. "But I am still strong and young and there is a good chance to come back."

Top seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina chalked up her 10th singles title and retained her world number three ranking in the process on Saturday.

The 18-year-old Argentine won the International Players Championship title with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 victory over second-seeded American Chris Evert.

Evert, who surrendered her number three ranking to Sabatini five weeks ago, could have regained it with a victory on Saturday. Instead she remained fourth in the world and collected \$60,000 as runner-up.

Sabatini earned \$100,000 for her first victory in an event with a 128-player draw.

Earlier men's top seed Ivan Lendl was declared singles champion by default.

Sabatini easily dominated an error-prone Evert in the first set as she broke the American three times while dropping serve once.

Evert struggled with blustering winds that better suited Sabatini's heavy topspin and stronger serve.

The Argentine kept the ball deep as she moved Evert around with heavy topspin and crosscourt angles. The tactic appeared to work as Evert often hit long or netted forehands.

The 34-year-old Evert, who has not missed a final in the five-year history of this tournament, battled back to take the second set on a pair of service breaks.

Evert leveled the match on a dramatic forehand passing shot hit on the run, which brought a capacity crowd of 10,500 to its feet in appreciation.

Evert was unable to maintain the momentum, however, and came out flat in the third set. She lost her serve in the opening game and fell behind 0-3 on a second break.

Sabatini played a careless fourth game and lost her serve, but broke Evert again three games later to lead 5-2. She closed out the match with an ace on her first match point.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

World champion Kasparov beaten

BARCELONA (AP) — Reigning world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union was beaten by his countryman Arthur Yusupov in the third round of the three-week world chess cup played here Saturday. Johan Kjaranson of Iceland, who drew with Predrag Nikolic of Yugoslavia, shared the top place of the standings with Yusupov with 2.5 points each.

World Cup tickets on sale abroad

ROME (R) — Tickets for the 1990 World Cup soccer finals in Italy went on sale abroad for the first time Saturday through banks in 22 countries in Europe, South America, the Far East and Saudi Arabia, organizers said. Half of the 2.6 million tickets available for the June 8 to July 8 1990 event have been set aside for sale outside Italy through foreign branches of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. The remainder went on sale within Italy last February and most seats for matches in the Rome and Naples stadiums are already sold out. The competition is being held in 12 cities and tickets are sold in batches covering all the games in individual stadiums.

Ngugi wins Italian race

VIGEVANO, (AP) — World cross country champion John Ngugi of Kenya won the eight-kilometer "Golden Shoe" race Saturday, setting a course-record 23 minutes and 18 seconds on the cobbled streets of this city near Milan. Ngugi, who had won his fourth world title in Stavanger, Norway, two weeks ago, took the lead after the first of a seven-lap city course and gradually increased his advantage. Ngugi finished ahead of Brazilian Artur Castro and Italian Gennaro Di Napoli, who placed second and third respectively. Another Brazilian, Diamantino Silveira, was fourth.

Squash showdown

MONACO (R) — The world's best two players, Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan of Pakistan, set up another final clash when they won surprisingly tight battles in the semifinals of the Monaco Open squash tournament Saturday. Rodney Martin of Australia, the only outsider in a Khan-dominated semifinal line-up, came close to a major upset, holding match point against Jansher Khan in the fourth game of their exciting five-game match. The former world champion had to come back from two games to one down before triumphing 11-15, 15-12, 16-17, 15-14, 15-4. Jahangir did not exactly have things his own way either against young compatriot Zarak Jahan Khan. The number one seed needed to all his experience to win 15-9, 15-4, 10-15, 15-11.

Harvard wins NCAA ice hockey crown

ST. PAUL, Minn. (R) — Eddie Kravay scored a sudden-death overtime goal to give Harvard the U.S. Collegiate Ice Hockey Championship with a 4-3 victory over the University of Minnesota Saturday night. The crimson forward put the puck past Minnesota goaltender Robb Stauber four minutes and 15 seconds into the first overtime period to give the prestigious Ivy League University the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) title and its first-ever national championship in any sport. Minnesota's Golden Gophers had taken a 1-0 lead in the first period. Harvard scored twice in the second before the home town team levelled the game on a power play goal.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Exercise care in handling, borrowing or lending money. Be extra discreet and avoid gossip and rumors. Compromise will be necessary to settle disagreements.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are on the move. The accent is on your social graces and attraction to beautiful people. Rearrange your schedule.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Focusing on financial need is important, but can cramp your style. Schedule events so that you can relax and play at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Rather than make new social waves, move along with the existing tides. A romance may be getting too hot to handle.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Go where your interests and favorite places are. Control household matters by reorganizing your home schedule.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You distrust someone's motives. Control opinions so as not to let differences stand in your way. Organize practical matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It is tough to control negative feedback and criticism. Face any delays calmly. Set some time aside for your own personal pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Quiet contemplation at home can ease your mind and pocketbook. You see expanding potentials but cannot find a way to control them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Finishing home tasks will give you a feeling of satisfaction. Siblings demand time and attention. Be child-like and free with your fun time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Mutual giving in a new situation is satisfying. A fresh, youthful approach to life brings thrilling variety.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Changes may disrupt plans. There is much that can be accomplished when companions cooperate. Satisfy your taste for something special.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your ideas are strong and attract attention. You can be a teacher and show others the path to fulfillment. Skills help you with a project.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Someone presses you and asks for more than is fair. It is a great time for a surprise get together. Life opens its doors.

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THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- Girl
- Hail
- Gas. city
- Oldies
- East
- Fl. river
- Pretty child
- Columbus' ship
- Fl. cleric
- Teddy
- Most unusual
- Take care of
- Station airport
- Sandwich
- Terms
- Hairstyle
- Will go
- Text. airline
- Recaps
- Pride, lust
- at. al.
- we all?
- Stalk
- Gr. letter
- Nickname
- Other
- Swiss city
- Somewhere
- Egyptian leader
- Cuphead
- Sheep
- Make
- Indictment
- Kapt under
- Wait
- Book of maps
- Be. gun
- Olson's kin
- Thomas or
- Clement
- Cinema
- canine
- Sea birds

DOWN

- Phrygian king
- Sm. dried
- brisk
- Caused out
- Grandest
- number
- Help
- Decalogue
- Opposed to
- Famous violinist
- Rise high
- Royal
- address
- Goddess of
- stifle
- Ordinary
- Kusa, sea
- Feigning figure
- Hollow stone
- Antique
- Sliths
- More
- colloquial
- Lat
- Gr. mountain
- Sand
- ridges
- Pure, baby
- Norse gods
- Kids
- Wind dr.
- Science
- Gr. letter
- Altitant
- Awash
- Lovable
- Eng. poet
- Hard journeys
- Stuff
- Apollo's mother
- Flord city
- Farther
- This —
- recording

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Girl
2. Hail
3. Gas. city
4. Oldies
5. East
6. Fl. river
7. Pretty child
8. Columbus' ship
9. Fl. cleric
10. Teddy
11. Most unusual
12. Take care of
13. Station airport
14. Sandwich
15. Terms
16. Hairstyle
17. Will go
18. Text. airline
19. Recaps
20. Pride, lust
21. at. al.
22. we all?
23. Stalk
24. Gr. letter
25. Nickname
26. Other
27. Swiss city
28. Somewhere
29. Egyptian leader
30. Cuphead
31. Sheep
32. Make
33. Indictment
34. Kapt under
35. Wait
36. Book of maps
37. Be. gun
38. Olson's kin
39. Thomas or
40. Clement
41. Cinema
42. canine
43. Sea birds

DOWN

1. Phrygian king
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6. number
7. Help
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13. address
14. Goddess of
15. stifle
16. Ordinary
17. Kusa, sea
18. Feigning figure
19. Hollow stone
20. Antique
21. Sliths
22. More
23. colloquial
24. Lat
25. Gr. mountain
26. Sand
27. ridges
28. Pure, baby
29. Norse gods
30. Kids
31. Wind dr.
32. Science
33. Gr. letter
34. Altitant
35. Awash
36. Lovable
37. Eng. poet
38. Hard journeys
39. Stuff
40. Apollo's mother
41. Flord city
42. Farther
43. This —
44. recording

U.S. College Basketball — Final Four

Seton Hall turns Duke around

SEATTLE (AP) — Seton Hall's first final four started the same way Danny Ferry's third one ended — with a blowout.

But the Pirates were able to turn the game around just as they have their programme, a big East doormat until two seasons ago.

Seton Hall rebounded from an 18-point deficit with improved shooting and tough second-half defence on Ferry for a 95-78 victory Saturday and a trip to the championship game.

When the game started, though, it sure looked like Duke would be the team to play in the championship Monday night against Michigan, a 83-81 winner over Illinois in the second game. The Blue Devils jumped to a 26-8 lead with 8:55 left in the first half. Seton Hall coach P.J. Carlesimo had to call his second timeout of the game.

Things can't get much bleaker than 2-for-14 shooting and seven turnovers. Ferry had outscored the Pirates 14-8.

"Duke really took it to us for the first eight, 10 minutes," Carlesimo said. "We may have been a little bit tight but they didn't allow us to do anything."

The Pirates came out of the timeout with a 25-12 run to get within 38-33 at halftime. The shooting improved to 9-for-16 and no one gave the ball away

again the rest of the half. What did Carlesimo say at the timeout to turn things around so markedly?

"We didn't say anything," Carlesimo said. "I told them 'let's just play like we're capable of playing.'"

Apparently, the Pirates can play defense.

Ferry had 21 points at halftime and had made eight of 13 shots from the field.

The second half was decidedly different for the 6-foot-10 All-American forward who was making his third final four appearance in a storied career that ended without a national Championship.

He made five of 14 in the second half and every Seton Hall player over 6-7 had a chance at guarding him.

"They play good team defense, that's one of their strengths," said Ferry, who finished with 34 points and 10 rebounds. "We came out real hard and had a lot of momentum then we lost track of what we were doing. The defense, turnovers, things started to fall apart."

They didn't on the other bench as Seton Hall turned things

around so much that it took an 87-69 lead with 3:02 left. The Pirates even got to clear their bench in the final minute as Ferry and his teammates sat disconsolate on the other side of the court.

"I thought our team was ready and we played outstanding for 10 minutes," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Then we had problems with fouls and injuries and that got us out of our rhythm but credit Seton Hall's defence for that."

Seton Hall has become a team known in its five NCAA tournament games for excellent defense in the second half. No team has managed to shoot better than 40 per cent against the Pirates in the second half.

The NCAA numbers: Southwest Missouri State had one field goal in the last 5:08; Evansville none in the last 5:08; Indiana three in 15:30; Nevada-Las Vegas six in 14:09; and Duke five in 8:40.

"I think that just shows how important our bench is," Carlesimo said, naming Anthony Avent, Michael Cooper and Frantz Volcy, each of whom had a chance on Ferry along with Darryl Walker and starting centre Ramon Ramos.

"At halftime I couldn't believe Ferry had 21 points because I thought we did a good job on him. He can do anything but

apparently Danny got tired without Robert in there."

Robert Brick, Duke's starting small forward suffered a severe thigh bruise early in the game and was limited in his minutes. Centres Christian Laettner and Alaa Abdelnaby each was saddled with fouls and caused Krzyzewski to do some substituting he hoped to avoid.

"Their physical maturity wore us down and they were stronger and took better care of the basketball," he said.

Seton Hall took the lead at good at 57-55 with 11:38 left on a layup by Avent and the rout was on from there as Andrew Gaze, 1-for-8 from the field in the first half, made all six of his shots in the second half, four from 3-point range.

"Coach told me at halftime to keep shooting if I had the shot and that can only make you feel good when you go back out," said the Australian Olympic star, who led the Pirates with 20 points.

As for turning around his programme, Carlesimo said: "I think we're doing things the same way we've always done them. The difference is that we've got better players."

Walker finished with 19 points. Gerald Greene had 17 and John Morton 13.

Laettner and Phil Henderson each had 13 for Duke, the latter on just 4-for-16 shooting.

New scoring system in gymnastics to reduce top scores

GENEVA (AP) — Proliferating "perfect 10" scores in gymnastics competition could well become a thing of the past this season under fine-tuned new rules from the sport's international governing body.

Revised scoring rules were introduced this year for women's individual all-around competition, Norbert Buche, General Secretary of the International Gymnastics Federation, said Friday.

If the system proves a success, it may be extended to men's all-around events in time for the world gymnastics championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, in October, Buche said from the Federation's headquarters in Lys, Switzerland.

The new system, designed to give scoring judges more nuances in rating performances and to avoid ties, had its successful full-scale debut at the Summer Olympics in Seoul last September.

Performances are scored in increments of five hundredths of a point rather than tenths, as in the past.

This means that while judges before could only give, for example, a 9.8 or 9.9 for strong showing before hitting the perfect mark 10, they now can use 9.85 and 9.95 ratings to distinguish between competitors.

Champion beaten but China rolls on relentless

DORTMUND (R) — Teenager Philippe Saive became a Belgian hero when he beat world number one Jiang Jialiang of China in the team event at the World Table Tennis Championships Saturday.

But the unexpected defeat was only a temporary setback for defending champion China, who went on to beat the unseeded Belgians 5-2 and reach a quarter-final tie with Poland.

Saive, 17, started badly but pulled back to beat world singles champion Jiang 9-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Saive is the younger brother of Jean-Michel Saive, whose three wins Friday helped Belgium defeat West Germany and build a dream of making the quarter-finals.

But the brothers' hopes ended in disappointment Saturday when hosts West Germany defeated Hungary 5-1 — a margin big enough to give them second place in the round robin group on the number of games won.

Two teams from each of the four groups qualified for Sunday's quarter-finals.

West Germany's late charge into the final eight owed much to their number two Steffen Fetzner — "speedy" to his team-mates.

Fetzner, 20, beat Hungarian veteran Tibor Klampar, 16 years his senior, 20-22, 21-17, 21-14 and added a two-game victory over Zolt Harazi in the final match.

"We knew the chance was very small but anyhow we fought hard to give it a try," said Fetzner, who was hoisted aloft by his jubilant team-mates and coaches as the crowd cheered and ap-

plauded the victory.

Sweden were relieved to find Erik Lindh beat in form after he lost three times on Friday in the 5-4 victory over South Korea.

Lindh looked much better in the final group match, contributing two wins as the European champions beat Taiwan 5-1 to finish top.

Japan, whose power as a table tennis nation has waned since they last won the world team crown in 1969, clawed back from 4-1 down against Yugoslavia to win 5-4 and finish second to the Soviet Union in their group.

Japanese doubles champion Hiroshi Shibutani clinched victory in the deciding match when he beat Olympic doubles silver medalist Zoran Primorac 21-18, 21-18.

Japan play North Korea in the quarter-finals while South Korea meet the Soviet Union.

China's world champions were the only women's team to win a group without dropping a game. They will face Sweden in the quarter-finals.

Veterans and newcomers contributed to the two Chinese victories Saturday. Olympic silver medalist Li Huiwen appeared against Romania and Hu Xiaoxin, making her world championship debut, helped Olympic champion Chen Jing to beat Yugoslavia.

Chinese-born women were also responsible for putting Hong Kong into the quarter-finals.

Chan Tan Lui and Chai Po Wa added a 3-0 win over England to two victories Friday to finish top of their group.

Greek bid for games in '96 to mix poetry with sport

ATHENS (AP) — Greece will combine sports with culture if it is selected to host the 1996 summer Olympic games, the executive committee for the Greek candidacy said Tuesday.

"I agree with the philosophy of these plans because they put great emphasis on culture," said Culture Minister Melina Mercouri presenting a draft proposal for the bid at a news conference.

"The Greek candidacy committee said a host of theatre and sculpture shows, and poetry readings, events would be part of celebrations in Athens and other major cities."

Mercouri has joined forces with Education Minister George Papandreou, son of socialist premier Andreas Papandreou, and Athens mayor Miltiades Evert to strengthen Greece's bid to host the centennial modern Olympics in the city where the ancient games were revived.

Papandreou said preparations for the games would cost one billion dollars.

George Kandylis, head of the team preparing the proposal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said Greece will focus on an atmosphere of celebration.

Security measures for the games were still being examined, he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TRY A LITTLE TEMPTATION

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A J 6 4 3
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ 7 5 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ A K 9 5 4 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7 2
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ Q 17
 ♣ A K J 6

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 NT 2 0 3 4 Pass
 3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of 0

Before committing yourself to a line, see if there is any way to develop an alternative. This hand is a typical case.

South had a difficult decision. You normally don't suppress third-round support headed by an honor in partner's major, yet he had a sure diamond stopper, soft values and an absolutely square hand. We accept his choice of three no trump, especially since four spades would have

been no bargain, anyway. West led his fourth-best diamond, and the percentage play is clear. Take the spade finesse. If it

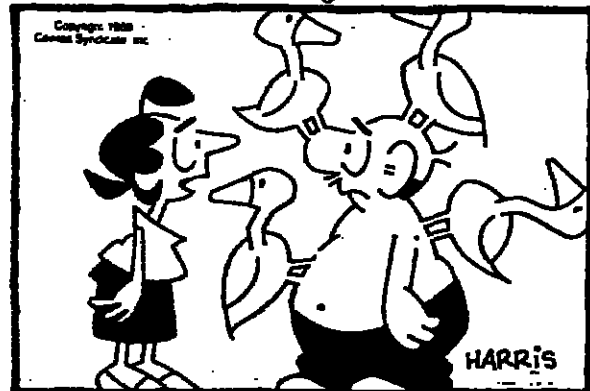
wins, you have nine tricks; if it loses, move on to the next hand. However, before you actually tackle the spade suit, lead the queen of hearts from hand. A good defender in the West suit will play low in tempo, and you go up with the ace, return to hand with the king of spades and take the finesse. That means down an extra trick, as the cards lie.

Where you gain is when an unthinking West, who learned to "cover an honor with an honor," puts up the king of hearts at trick two. Now you have eight fast tricks, and can combine your chances for a ninth.

Cash the king-ace of spades to see if the queen drops, planning to take the club finesse if her majesty does not appear. If she does, you can be real greedy. Take your heart tricks and the ace of clubs, then get to the table with a spade and run that suit. That gives you ten tricks, and you can hook the club to score at least one additional overtrick.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm going to call the doctor! That's the worst case of goose pimples I've ever seen!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TCHEF

EUQUE

NOAZAM

CENNAD

FIT TO BE EATEN EXCEPT IN THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

U.N. makes bid to salvage crumbling Namibia peace plan

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — South Africa said Sunday it was slowing a military withdrawal from Namibia after reported clashes with black nationalist rebels brought a U.N. peace plan for Pretoria's colony to the brink of collapse.

A top-level delegation of U.N. peacekeepers flew to a remote settlement at the Angolan border where Namibian police battled rebels they said belonged to the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The clash, which leaves the prospect of a trouble-free transition to independence in tatters, was roundly condemned by U.N. officials and diplomats.

"The whole U.N. operation was nearly aborted last night. No-one expected 40 dead on day one," said a senior Western diplomat.

South Africa said Saturday 38 SWAPO guerrillas and two policemen were killed in the

threatened to derail Namibia's transition to independence.

SWAPO rebels "fired only in self-defence after being hunted down and attacked," SWAPO said in a statement issued from its headquarters in Luanda, Angola. It said more U.N. peacekeeping troops were needed.

Earlier in Harare, the Namibian nationalist group's leader Sam Nujoma said: "SWAPO is investigating (the border clash) on its own," adding its findings would be reported to the U.N. and the Namibian people.

In another disputed incident, eight SWAPO supporters enjoying Saturday's independence countdown celebrations were shot dead from South African army helicopters at a remote settlement in northeastern Namibia, according to reports from the Council of Churches in Namibia.

A military spokesman denied the incident took place.

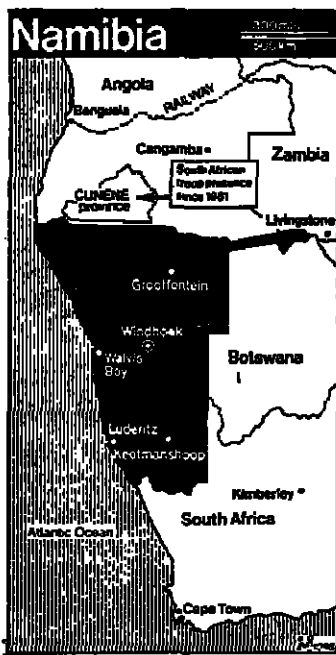
"The disastrous start to the U.N.'s independence operation comes as a severe blow to officials responsible for the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), one of the biggest military-civilian operations ever mounted by the world body.

"The situation is too delicate to comment on," said grim-faced Cedric Thornberry, assistant to UNTAG chief Martti Ahtisaari, after returning from a fact-finding trip to the scene of the SWAPO clash with the police.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who visited Namibia Saturday, has called on the U.N. Security Council to discuss the UNTAG mission.

Officials said that the Namibian crisis would be on the agenda when Thatcher meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in London this week on his return from Cuba.

The Soviet Union is an ally of



Cuba and Angola, both signatories to an agreement with Pretoria last December which provided for Namibian independence in exchange for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Gorbachev pays visit to Ireland

SHANNON, Ireland (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, making a lightning visit to Ireland Sunday, urged East and West Europe to "put its common house in order" and defuse tensions.

"Europe has a tremendous potential and I believe if Europe does progress, if Europe moves forward, that will be a very good example for the whole world," he told reporters after his two-hour stopover at Shannon airport en route to Cuba.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, leader of a country that prides itself on its neutrality, offered Ireland as the venue for a Gorbachev summit with President Bush.

"We put it on the table," Haughey said of the offer without giving any details of Gorbachev's response except to say the Soviet leader expressed his keenness to return to Ireland.

Gorbachev, the first Soviet leader to visit Ireland, said in his brief stopover, "Ireland is not a stopover but a milestone."

Talking to reporters after his talks, Gorbachev said: "We feel very strongly that we are Europeans, that Europe at this crucial stage can play a key role in putting international relations on a new level."

"I feel that we have as Europeans to set our own common house in order and I believe that this is quite possible, that the trend is very positive."

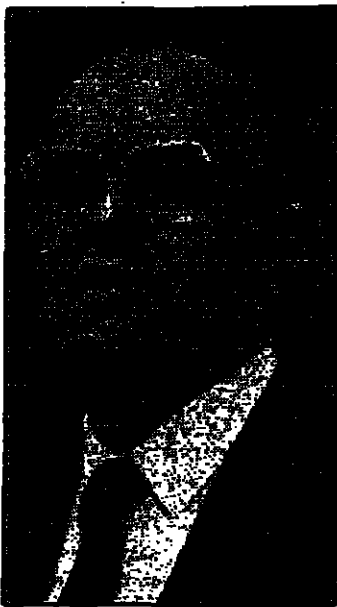
"The European process can only succeed if it involves all European countries and of course the United States and Canada."

Gorbachev's scheduled 90-minute refueling stop stretched to two hours at Shannon, the Irish airport that acts as a gateway to the West for the Soviet airline Aeroflot.

Almost 2,000 Aeroflot flights a year pass through Shannon where the airline's planes are also repaired and refueled.

Gorbachev, accompanied by his wife Raisa, ended his visit by touring the Shannon duty-free shop whose success prompted Aeroflot to launch into a communist-capitalist joint venture.

The Irish airport authorities



Mikhail Gorbachev

last year signed a joint agreement with Aeroflot to run a duty-free airport shop in Moscow which had a \$12-million turnover in its first 12 months.

Other stores are to be opened up in Leningrad and at Viborg on the Soviet-Finnish border.

The Shannon visit offered Haughey a valuable opportunity to present Dublin's viewpoint on Northern Ireland, scene of a 20-year-old Irish nationalist guerrilla conflict against Britain, before Gorbachev meets British leader Margaret Thatcher in London next week.

"I stressed the fact that for us it is our central political problem," Haughey said after the talks.

He warmly praised Gorbachev's grasp of the problems of Northern Ireland, saying: "I found him well-informed, sympathetic and understanding."

Gorbachev, clearly choosing his words carefully, avoided being drawn too deeply into Anglo-Irish relations.

"We are sympathetic to the efforts to solve that problem consistent with the feelings of the people of Northern Ireland," he said.

"We had no practical discussions on the problem itself, but the human dimension of it was discussed," he told reporters.

Labour aboard the Cessna

CLAY CENTER (AP) — Herman Hill did not have many options when his wife, Sara, went into labour next to him. He was busy flying a small airplane over northwest Kansas as she gave birth.

"Herman is a calm person," Mrs. Hill said. The Hills were flying the four-seater Cessna about 300 miles (500 kilometres) from their home to Manhattan, Kansas, Wednesday evening, where they had arranged for the baby's delivery at Memorial Hospital. They were about 65 kilometres short of their destination when Mrs. Hill gave birth to a girl.

"I talked to our county nurse a couple of weeks ago just in case something like this might happen," Mrs. Hill said. Hill began making arrangements for an emergency landing at Clay Center when his wife went into labour. "Nobody could seem to understand what he was saying," said Pam Spicer, co-owner of Spicer Aircraft. "So he finally just said, 'code red' and there were ambulances and police cars all over the place."

The couple's third child, Shiree, was "the prettiest little girl you ever saw," said one ambulance driver.

Illegal aliens found at Sellick's joint

HONOLULU (AP) — The Black Orchid, an upscale restaurant partly owned by actor Tom Sellick, was fined \$35,400 for 173 immigration law violations, federal officials said. In order to prevent illegal aliens from obtaining employment, all employers must verify that new employees are U.S. citizens or aliens who have the right to work in the United States.

"It is unfortunate that this employer did not comply with the law," the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) officer Harold Ezell said Wednesday. "We're just shocked to hear it," said Randy Schoch, president and part-owner of the restaurant.

"We have no illegal aliens working for us, absolute zero. We felt that we had filled out all the forms," INS officials told reporters Wednesday that illegal aliens were found working at the restaurant.

Giants to promote healthy changes

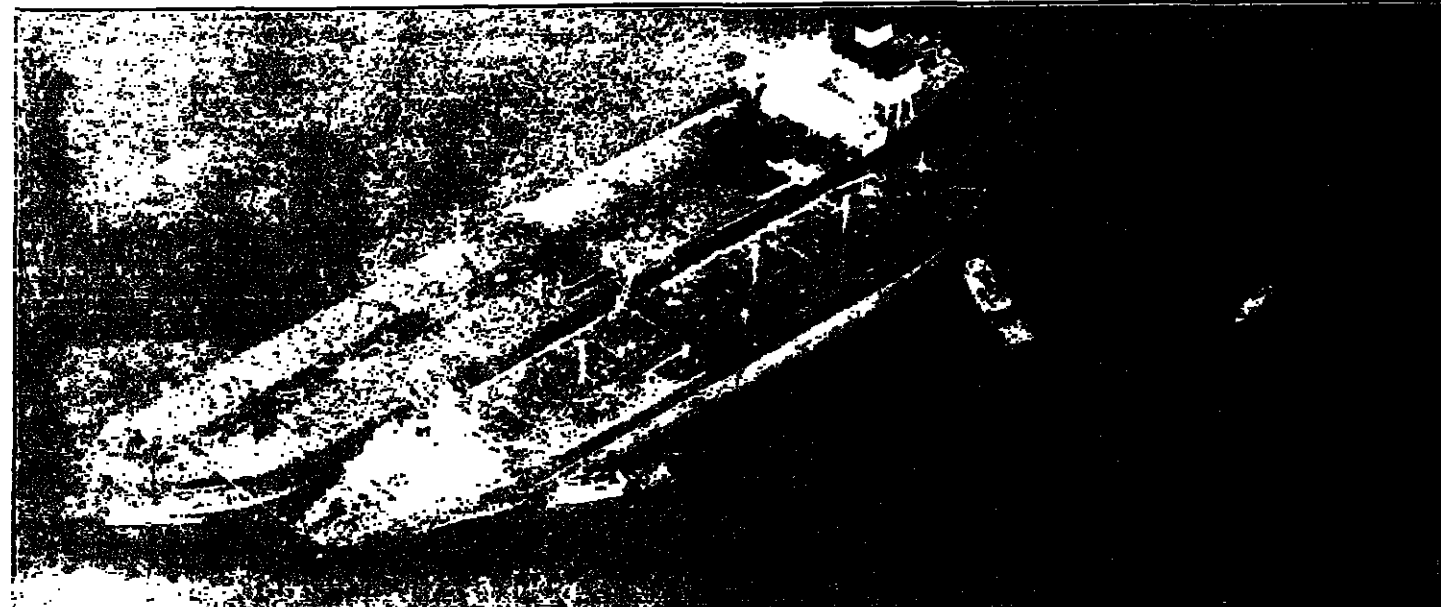
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Baseball fans who attend San Francisco Giants games at Candlestick Park this season may be shocked to discover their stadium has changed its menu. Concession choices will no longer be limited to standard ballpark fast-food fare, such as fat-filled frankfurters, salted peanuts and beer. Now, Giants' fans also will be able to visit a special concession stand and choose among a number of healthy foods: meatless frankfurters, yogurt, salads and all the mineral water you can drink.

Kenya's fall for mountain joke

NAIROBI (AP) — A Nairobi newspaper reporter got dozens of puzzled calls for few chuckles with his April Fool's day claim that plans were afoot to dump tons of rock on Mount Kenya's snow-capped peak to make it Africa's highest mountain. Haroun Wandala, the reporter who wrote the front-page piece for The Standard, estimated at least 50 per cent of the dozens of readers who called the newspaper about Mount Kenya's proposed lift thought the story was true. "One fellow asked if we'd considered the ecological impact such a project would have on the mountain's streams and rivers and surrounding area," said Wandala, laughing amid the din of ringing telephones.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	00	22	46 Clear
ATHENS	05	48	22 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	16	61	23 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	34 63 Clear
Buenos Aires	11	51	21 69 Clear
CAIRO	19	68	28 79 Clear
CHICAGO	04	25	07 47 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	28	07 45 Clear
FRANKFURT	05	41	16 61 Cloudy
GENOVA	09	48	16 61 Rain
HONG KONG	22	72	27 81 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	13	55	18 64 Clear
LONDON	08	47	09 47 Rain
LOS ANGELES	15	58	24 74 Clear
MADRID	05	41	17 63 Cloudy
MECCA	21	70	34 88 Clear
MUMBAI	20	69	24 74 Cloudy
MONTREAL	00	32	12 43 Clear
MOSCOW	01	30	05 47 Snow
NEW DELHI	21	71	31 89 Clear
NEW YORK	05	40	09 49 Rain
PARIS	11	53	23 73 Cloudy
ROME	05	41	28 79 Cloudy
SEOUL	09	48	17 63 Clear
VIENNA	04	38	15 59 Cloudy



Super-tanker Exxon-Valdez on the reefs of the Prince William Straits in Alaska.

Alaska hunts for oil spill captain

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — Authorities issued an arrest warrant for the tanker captain suspected of drinking before his ship ran aground, causing a 250-square-kilometre oil slick that expanded Saturday under shifting wind and currents in Alaskan waters.

About 800 miles of beach have

been tainted so far in the biggest oil spill in U.S. history, officials said. A prosecutor said the captain admitted drinking on board the tanker before it went aground, according to court papers obtained by the Oregonian, an Oregon newspaper.

One of the first investigators to board the Exxon Valdez asked Joseph Hazelwood what the problem was, and the captain replied, "I think you're looking at it," the newspaper reported in its Sunday edition.

Alaska Attorney General Doug Bailey said Saturday that

criminal charges were filed late Friday against Hazelwood, 42, captain of the tanker that crashed into Bligh reef in Prince William Sound March 24.

Meanwhile, Alaska's governor threatened to close the trans-Alaska pipeline if the oil industry fails to protect against spills.

Dhawan speaks of 'conspiracy'

NEW DELHI (R) — A top government official named as a suspect in the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 claimed at the weekend he was the victim of a political conspiracy.

Rajinder Kumar Dhawan, brought back from the political wilderness in February by Gandhi's son and successor as prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, declared he had been cleared of any wrongdoing.

"I have been vindicated. There is not even a shred of convincing evidence against me," he said in an interview with India Today news magazine.

"I can only say one thing: I have been the victim of a judicial conspiracy hatched against the Gandhi family and against me in particular," he said.

Dhawan, who for 20 years was personal secretary to Indira Gandhi, is strongly critical of a judicial inquiry into her assassination by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

Satwant Singh, one of the assassins, and Kehar Singh, a government clerk convicted of conspiracy, were hanged for the murder in January. The second guard, Beant Singh, was himself killed after gunning down Gandhi in the garden of her Delhi home.

The inquiry report, which the

government released last week after caving in to intense opposition pressure, devotes considerable space to building a case against Dhawan.

Accusing him of lying about his actions before, during and after the assassination, Justice M.P. Thakkar repeatedly concludes: "It thus points a finger of guilt at Dhawan."

Government ministers said a subsequent investigation completely exonerated Dhawan, and the 48-year-old aide told India Today: "I have no doubt in my mind that some people were out to fix me."

He provides no names, but political analysts say Dhawan's years as a power broker in Indira Gandhi's office had made him powerful enemies in the ruling Congress (I) Party.

He claims the motive was to remove everybody from the prime minister's office who was loyal to Indira Gandhi.

Gandhi's decision to harness Dhawan's widely respected political skills by bringing him back as a top aide in the run up to elections this year triggered the leaking to the press of some of the most damaging parts of the Thakkar report.

American oat-bran craze shows no sign of tapering off

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — U.S. consumer craving for oat bran has opened up a whole new market for cereal makers and bakers, but critics claim greedy food companies are unscrupulously capitalising on the craze.

Almost one-and-a-half years have passed since the boom began, ignited by scientific studies indicating that 34 grammes of oat bran eaten daily as part of a low-fat diet could help prevent heart attacks.

"We have not really seen any slackening in demand," said Ron Bottrell, a spokesman for Quaker Oats Company, the nation's largest oat miller and producer of oat bran cereal. "You keep adding capacity, but demand keeps increasing too."

Quaker is producing 454,000 kilogrammes of oat bran a

month, compared with 454,000 kilogrammes a year only two years ago, and plans to introduce a new oat bran cereal this year, a cold variety to complement its hot version.

Its Cedar Rapids, Iowa, plant is making oat bran cereal 24 hours a day, and Quaker is considering adding production lines at its other plants.

Meanwhile, competitors are jumping on the bran wagon this spring, including Nabisco Foods Company and Ralston Purina Company.

"We don't see it tapering off," said Nabisco spokeswoman Caroline Fee. "The rise in popularity is just phenomenal. It does not seem to be a fad."

Heart disease and high cholesterol aren't going to disappear overnight, and to the extent oat bran can help, neither will it, companies reason. "To benefit from oat bran,

you don't have it one morning and that's it. It has to be part of a diet," Fee said.

Bran substitutes

The magic of oat bran is that it is one of the best-known sources of soluble fibre, which reduces cholesterol in the blood and the risk of heart disease. Beans like pinto, kidney and navy; psyllium, a seed grain; rice bran; and fruits with pectin, like apples and grapefruit, are good sources.

"We estimate about half a cup of cooked beans can lower cholesterol by about the same amount as a bowl of oat bran," said Bonnie Liebman, nutrition director of the Centre for Science in the Public Interest. "The bean people don't have the bucks (money)... the industry is not as adept at advertising. You don't hear about it, but that doesn't mean it won't work."

Oat bran benefits can be more dramatic for people with high blood cholesterol, who may see a 13 per cent to 19 per cent reduction when on a low-fat diet that includes an oat bran muffin or a bowl of oat bran daily, according to a study

in last April's Journal of the American Medical Association. But that knowledge may be of little help to consumers facing torrents of advertising hype and a jungle of new oat-bran products.

"Just because the word 'oat bran' is splashed across the front of the package, doesn't mean you're getting a lot of oat bran inside," Liebman said.

It can take more than a dozen servings a day of some foods to see benefits. And some products are full of highly saturated fats — lard, beef tallow, palm oil, butter, coconut oil — which may drive up blood-cholesterol levels more than the oat bran lowers them.

"Check the label," Liebman warns.

The marketplace is ripe for abuse, because the oat bran business has become "hysterical," said David Liederman,

who supplemented cookie-making with non-fat oat bran muffins and now sells 75,000 a week on the east coast.

"If we had the production capacity, we could sell a couple of million," said Liederman, whose David's Specialty Foods Incorporated took off after it was featured in a New York Times article about oat bran in November.

Even though he is enjoying unprecedented success, Liederman decries "corporate greed run wild," and oat-bran prices that have risen from \$0.40 to \$2.00 per 454 grammes.

"Corporate food-America is advertising oat bran every minute on national television," but much of it is "misguided" or "medically irresponsible," he said. "Companies are making claims that have no basis in reality."

Consumers also may be getting low-quality bran, said William Aufrecht of Arrowhead Mills, a natural foods company based in Hereford, Texas.

Such bran is increasingly likely to enter the U.S. market as manufacturers rely on more imports to fill the gap left by a 40 per cent drop in U.S. oat production caused largely by the 1988 drought.

Oat bran should contain 25 per cent to 30 per cent soluble fibre, Aufrecht said. Some foreign oat bran his company investigated contained only 10 per cent. By comparison, whole oats contain about eight per cent soluble fibre.

The problem is unlikely to ease with sales of oat bran cereals having risen 215 per cent over the past 12 months, and with oat bran going into everything from pancake mix to animal crackers to potato chips.

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